A Glimpse of the Past
PITTSFIELD, VERMONT

By Catherine S. Davis
Dawn D. Hance

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A Glimpse of the Past

Pittsfield, Vermont

Compiled and Edited
by

CATHERINE S. DAVIS

DAWN D. HANCE

Published by the Authority of the Town of Pittsfield, Vermont

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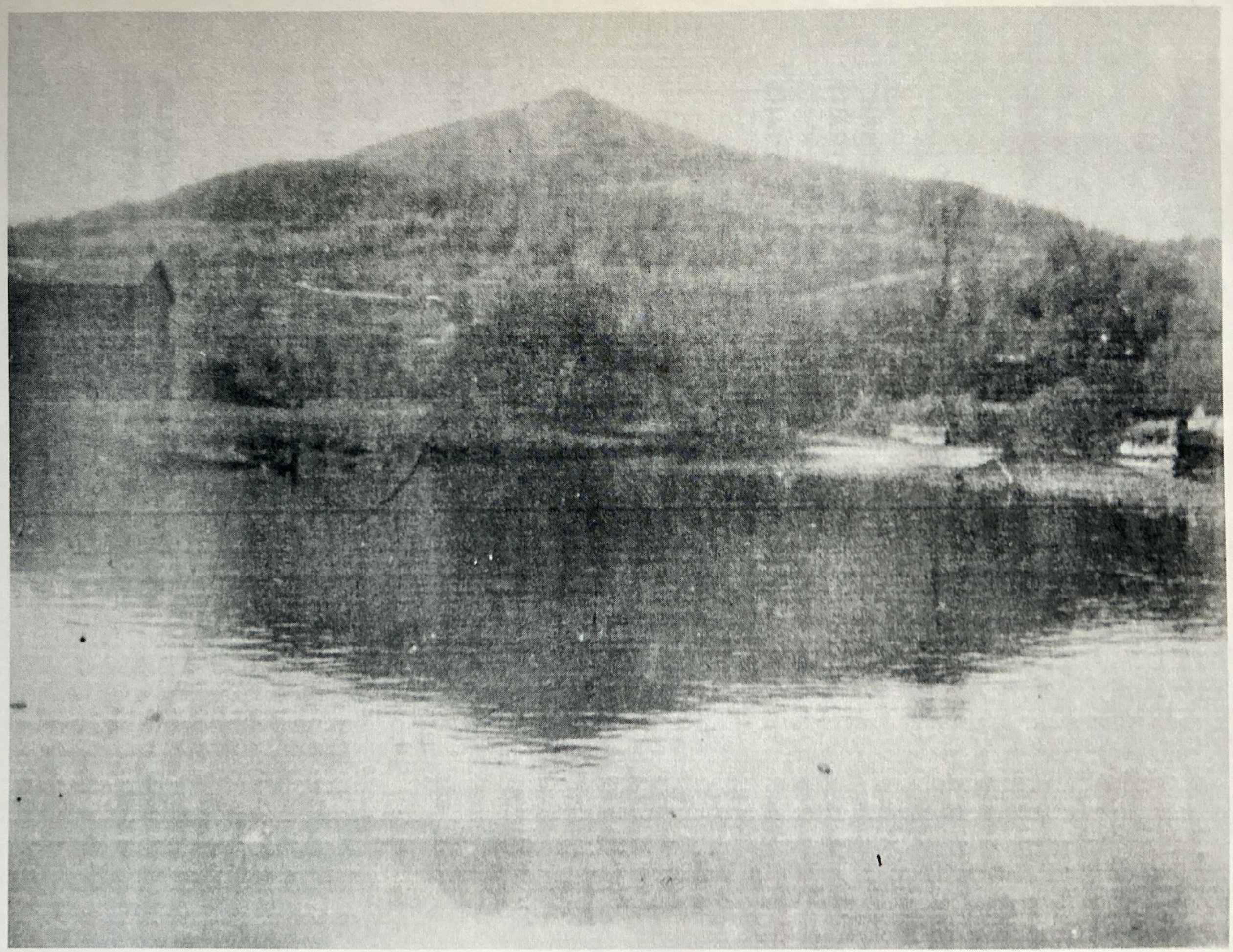
Emerson 94-95



Dam and Wilcox Peak - named for Samuel Wilcox who failed to reach its top.

Pittsfield, 100 years ago.

FOREWORD

That which began as a collection of pictures of an earlier Pittsfield and their history, on the one hand, and a search for information about our ancestors, earlier residents here, on the other, has unearthed interesting facts never previously brought together. We feel that it should be shared. Perhaps a more appropriate approach might have been to continue research of more recent times, and to publish a complete history in 1981 when Pittsfield celebrates its Bicentennial. However, due to the absence of any local history, and since "half a loaf is better than none at all" we present this book to the citizens of Pittsfield, present and future as our contribution to our Country's Bicentennial Celebration.

The senior author (senior by more than 40 years) was a resident of Pittsfield for nearly all of the fifty years of her marriage, her husband a descendant of residents here since 1805; the junior author had several ancestors who lived here for many years, notably the Fullers, Hastings and Barrs.

The vote, by those who braved the storm last Town Meeting Day to publish this book, without having been given the opportunity to examine its contents, is a source of gratification to the authors. We appreciate your confidence.

As the name indicates, our main efforts have been on the first one hundred fifty years. Only incidental mention has been made to events since 1925.

We are convinced that a search of trunks and attics would bring to light as many more pictures of other houses, many older than some shown here. We regret that we do not have them at this time, but we have used those made available to us.

It is our hope that an active search will be made by every family, and that pictures, or interesting materials, will be given as part of a collection under the care of the Town Clerk, or copied and made available for future use. Earl and Mary Davis will gladly copy any such pictures and catalog them with the rest of the collection of Pittsfield proofs. Duplicates of any of the pictures appearing in this book, or of the other proofs made by them, may be had for the cost of the printing.

Many sources of information are available, and we will share any information we have, with anyone interested and willing to pursue further a more detailed account of the recent years of Pittsfield, hopefully by 1981 for its Bicentennial.

THE NEW TOWN

Charter of PITTSFIELD, VERMONT

The Vermont General Assembly, in October 1780, passed a resolution granting to Samuel Willcox, Daniel Kinne, Josiah Wright and 127 associates, the township of Pittsfield to be paid for at 9 pounds per right. The charter was granted July 29, 1781, setting forth the usual conditions.

The Governor, Council, and General Assembly of the Freemen of Vermont.

To all People, to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

KNOW YE, that whereas Messieurs Samuel Willcox, Daniel Kinne and Josiah Wright, and their Associates, our worthy Friends, have, by Petition, requested a Grant of a Tract of unappropriated Land within this State, in order for settling a new-Plantation, to be erected into a Township: WE HAVE THEREFORE THOT FIT, for the due encouragement of their laudable Designs, and for other valuable considerations us hereunto moving; and Do, by these Presents, in the name, and by the Authority of the Freemen of Vermont, Give and Grant the Tract of Land hereafter described and bounded, unto the said Samuel Willcox, Daniel Kinne, Josiah Wright, and their Associates. Which, together with the Ten following One Hundred and Fortieth Parts of said Land, reserved to the several uses in manner following, include the whole of said Township, viz Two 140th Parts for the use of a Seminary or Colledge; Two 140th Parts for the use of County Grammar Schools in said State; Lands, to the amount of two 140th Parts to be and remain for the Purpose of Settlement of a Minister and Ministers of the Gospel in said Township; Lands, to the amount of Two 140th Parts, for the Support of the social worship of God in said Township; and Lands, to the amount of two 140th Parts, for the support of an English School or Schools in said Township: which said four 140th Parts, for the use of a Seminary or Colledge, and for the use of County Grammar Schools as aforesaid; and the Improvements, Rents, Interests, and Profits arising therefrom, shall be under the Controul, Order, Direction and Disposal of the General Assembly of said State forever. And the Proprietors of said Township are hereby authorised and empowered to locate said four 140th Parts, justly and equitably, or Quantity for Quality, in such Parts of said Township as they or their Committee shall judge will least incommode the general Settlement of said Tract or Township. And the said Proprietors are hereby further empowered to locate the Lands aforesaid, amounting to six 140th Parts, assigned for the Settlement of a Minister and Ministers; for their Support; and for the use and support of English Schools, in such, and in so many Places as they or their Committee shall judge will best accommodate the Inhabitants of said Township, when the same shall be fully settled and improved, laying the same equitably, or Quantity for Quality. Which said Lands, amounting to the six 140th Parts last mentioned, when located as aforesaid, shall together with their Improvements, Rights, Rents, Profits Dues, and Interests, remain unalienably appropriated for the uses and purposes for which they are respectively assigned, and be under the Charge, Direction and Disposal of the Inhabitants of said Township forever. Which Tract of Land, hereby given and granted as aforesaid, is bounded and described as follows, viz; "BEGINNING *at the north westerly Corner of Stockbridge; then Southerly in the westerly Line of Stockbridge (about Seven miles and an Half) to the Southwest Corner thereof; then South westerly to the South Easterly Corner of Chittenden; then Northerly in the Easterly Lines of Chittenden and Philadelphia, or continuing the last Course, until a Line being extended from the said North westerly Corner of Stockbridge, North Sixty one Degrees West, will intersect the aforesaid last Course.*" And that the same be, and hereby is incorporated into a Township, by the name of PITTSFIELD. And the Inhabitants that do, or shall hereafter inhabit said Township, are declared to be infranchised, and entitled to all the Priviledges and Immunities that the Inhabitants of other Towns within this State do, and ought, by Law and Constitution, to exercise and enjoy. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said granted Premises, as above expressed, in equal Shares, that is to say; one 140th Part of said Township to each Proprietor, with all the Priviledges and Appurtenances thereto belonging and appertaining, to them and their respective Heirs and Assigns forever: upon the following Conditions and Reservations, viz, That each Proprietor of the Township of Pittsfield aforesaid, His Heirs or Assigns, shall plant and cultivate Five Acres of Land, or, build an House at least Eighteen Feet square on the Floor, or have one Family settled on each respective Share, or 140th Part of said Township, within the Term of Three Years next after the circumstances of the war will admit of a Settlement with Safety; on Penalty of the Forfeiture of each Share, or 140th part of the Land in said Township, not so improved, or settled; and the same to revert to the Freemen of this State, to be, by their Representatives, regranted to such Persons as shall appear, to settle and cultivate the same. That all Pine-Timber, suitable for a NAVY, be reserved, for the use and Benefit of the Freemen of this State.

IN TESTIMONY whereof, I have hereunto set my Hand, and caused the Seal of this State to be affixed, this 29th Day of July, Anno Dommini 1781. And in the 5th Year of our Independence.

Thomas Chittenden.

By His Excellency's Command.
Thos Tolman Depy Secry.

When the land was being surveyed in 1782 it was discovered that there was a shortage, by nearly one third, of the land granted, also that much of the land was so mountainous as to be of little value. Samuel Willcox and Joseph Durkee were chosen to represent the proprietors in requesting the General Assembly, for additional land — a small gore northwest of Hancock, or any other vacant piece. This request was dismissed.

Several similar requests were made but the proprietors were told that the land was there — they must find it.

PETITION OF SAMUEL WILCOX et al. FOR A GORE NORTHWEST OF HANCOCK*

To the Honnourable the General Assembly Now Seting att Manchester the Petition of Samel. Willcox Joseph Durkey and their Associates being one hundred & thirty in Number. Humbly Sheweth that whereas the Honnourable assembly of this State was Pleased in October 1780 to Grant unto us the Subscribers and our associates the Townships of Hancock and Pitsfield, as to the Town of Hancock upon a Survey of the Town itt is found to be a Great Part of itt not fitt for Improvment by Reason of its Lying on the Rige [ridge] of the Greene mountains and as to the Town of Pitsfield we find by a Survey that itt falls Short about or near one third Part of the Town Lying in a wege Betwene the Towns of Rochester, Philadelphia [Goshen-Chittenden] Chittenden & Stockbridge as will appear by a Plan Drawn by two of the County Surveyours, and as their is a Small Gore or Peice of Vacant Land Lying westerly and Northweardly on the Said Town of Hancock we your honnours Petitioners Humbly Pray that your Honnours wold be Pleased to Grant your Petitioners the above mentioned Gore or Vacant Peace of Land in Consequence of the above mentioned Townships being of Vastly Less Vallew then the Townships in General by Reason of the Before mentioned Deficulties and Likewise we your Honnours humbel Petitioners wold Inform your honnours that their is not any Clame Laid to the Said Gore of Land By haveing any Petition for the Same but what was Given up their Right to the Petitioners above, and your Honnours Petitioners as in Duty Bound Shall Ever Pray

Manchester October 11th 1782

Samel. Willcox
Joseph Durkey

In 1796 Thomas Hodgkins petitioned for a return of that portion of the money which was overpayment for lands not received. The proprietors had paid a total of 585 pounds for what had been represented to be 32,938 acres, whereas there were only about 18,000. He was informed that he had not proved this to be the case. After ten years of litigation the proprietors finally admitted defeat.

FOR COMPENSATION FOR OVERPAYMENT OF LAND GRANT FEES

xix/357

to the Honorable the general Assembley of the State of Vermont who are to Convene at Rutland on the second thirsday of october Instant—your Petitionor Humbley Sheweth that in the year of our Lord AD 1782 the Proprietors of Pittsfield in the Couty of Rutland Receved a Grant of Sd Pittsfield: 2 Granted by the Legeslator of this State and by Said plan Exebited by the Seveyr General of said State: there would Hold oute 32938 acres & forty Rords of Land: which Land was granted to 130 proprietors: and Publick Resurvations as in other towns: (and wee) Sd proprietors paid to the treasurer of this [state] 585 pounds L M with an high Expectation that the Land would Hold out 32938 acres but by actual Survays your petitioner is abundently able to Show to your Honnors that Sd twnship falls short 14938 acres from what was Expected by Sd propriators: or the Survayer general at the time of Sd Grant: and your petioner Expecting that as the State has had the benefit of the money paid in for the aforesaid 14938 acres that the Honoreble Legislator will refund Back to your petioner the aforeSaid money with the intrest; which will be abot 500 Dollars and intrest, or make us Compensation sume other way, as you in your Wisdom shall think best, as your Petitioner in Duty Bound will Ever pray

Pittsfield October 12th AD 1796

Thomas Hodgkins Agent
for Sd propriators

PROPRIETOR'S MEETINGS

Two days after having granted the township of Pittsfield, Governor Chittenden granted to the same 130 proprietors land that was to become Hancock. Proprietors meetings were held jointly.

The first Proprietors meeting was held at the dwelling house of M. Edward Vail in Danby, on the third Wednesday of December A.D. 1781, at one o'clock p.m.

Chose Daniel Kinne, Moderator; Solomon Stoddard, Proprietors Clerk; Samuel Willcox, Treasurer.

Voted to raise the sum of 3 shillings on each right, lawful money, to be paid on sight. Chose a Committee to reconnoiter and lay out townships. Voted to raise 9 shillings on each right to be paid at, or before the first day of June next.

The second Proprietor's meeting was held at the dwelling house of Landlord Tuttle, next door to Esquire Bowker's (near the present site of Christ the King Church) in Rutland, Monday October 21, 1782.

Voted to raise the sum of 1 pound on each right to be paid by the last day of this month.

December 12, 1782, met at the house of Samuel Willcox in Partridgefield (Berkshire County, Massachusetts) to draw First Division Lots.

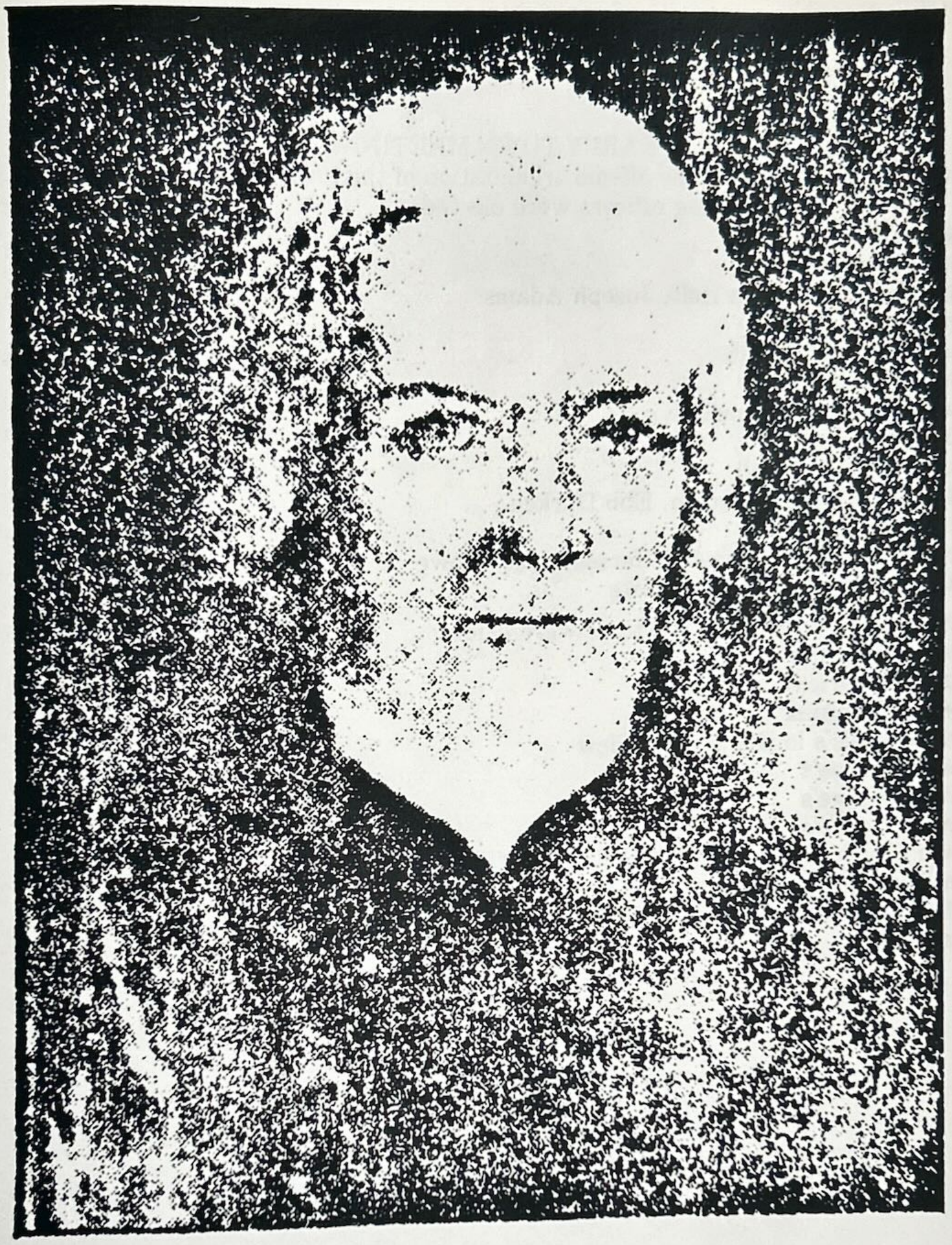
"Voted that Lot #9 remain in the hands of the proprietors — not subject to draught".

"Voted that each 50 acre lot shall allow two acres and an half for highways".

Apparently few of the propreitors had any plans for settling in the townships in this area. Certainly this was true of Asa Whitcomb and others who held rights in Barnard, Stockbridge, Rochester and several towns. Each had made his 9 pound investment, hoping to send settlers here and make a good return on his money. When the first settlement in Pittsfield was started, about 1786, only Stephen Holt was an original proprietor settling on what is today known as the Mayo Hill area. Said to have been the first farm settled in town, and covered with a dense growth of timber, which he cleared in a short time, part of this land, for which he had paid about fourteen cents an acres, was set out to orchard "Which for size and thrift is probably not surpassed in any town today", according to *Child's Gazetteer*, published in 1882.

At an adjourned meeting of the proprietors December 4, 1783, it was voted to give Lot #9 to Captain Joseph Durkee and Mr. John Cogswell, together with fifty additional acres from the undivided lands, conditioned upon their erection of "a good saw mill and a good grist mill within the term of three years from date."

The above condition not having been met, the proprietors on March 27, 1789, decided to further encourage Messrs. Durkee and Cogswell by offering them Lot #2 in lieu of the fifty acres in the undivided land. Apparently this was still unsatisfactory, for on October 4, 1792, the proprietors accepted the saw mill and grist mill built by Esq. Charles Goodrich giving him Lots #2 and #9.



CAPTAIN CHARLES GOODRICH, 1780

CHARLES GOODRICH AND THE MILLS

The earliest most influential man of Pittsfield was without a doubt Charles Goodrich who built the first saw and gristmill in town located forty rods south of the cemetery. He was born in 1720 in Weathersfield, Connecticut and, after burying his wife and three children and freeing his slaves, he removed to Pittsfield, Massachusetts where he became one of that town's first settlers. When nearly sixty years of age he married Hannah Ward by whom he had three children — Charles, Lucy and James. He died at the age of ninety-six. Family history has it that when eighty years old, Captain Goodrich started at sunrise astride a Narragansett pony from Pittsfield, Vermont and rode one hundred and four miles to Pittsfield, Massachusetts, sleeping in his own bed that night.

At a Proprietor's meeting held October 4, 1792 it was voted to accept the mills built by Esq. Goodrich. To him went the privilege of naming the new town which he called Pittsfield after his hometown in Massachusetts.

There are two versions of how the two hundred pound crankshaft for the mills arrived. It was carried on the backs of two men either from Pittsford, Vermont or from Pittsfield, Massachusetts, a most arduous task in either case compared to transportation as we know it today.

Daniel Adkins was the first miller and kept the position until 1796 when Benjamin Blossom took over. He ran the mills for ten years. In 1809 James Goodrich sold the mills for five hundred dollars to Penuel Child of Brandon. Subsequent owners were Samuel Spaulding, G.M. Dains in 1853. By 1869 each mill was owned separately, Almon Thompson having the sawmill as well as the turning shop which was built later, and Joseph Segar the gristmill.

Although Capt. Goodrich never resided here, he did appear from time to time to sign deeds and check on his investments. By 1800 his son James had moved here and did most of the overseeing.

Capt. Goodrich also built the first framed house in town sometime before 1793 which was used as a dwelling for his miller and also served as town hall, school and church. This house was located on the site of the present Franklin Sulham home, but it is doubtful that this is the original building.

EARLY TOWN MEETINGS

The first town meeting, which marked the official organization of the town, was held at Daniel Atkins' at the house at the mills March 26, 1793. The following officers were elected.

Moderator-George Martin
Town Clerk-Thomas Hodgkins
Selectmen-George Martin, Stephen Holt, Joseph Adams
Treasurer-Daniel Bowe
First Constable-Anthony Whitcomb
Sealer of Leather-Daniel Atkins
Grand Jurors-Stephen Holt, William Davis
Pound Keeper-Daniel Atkins
Tythingmen-Jonas Stone, Asa Call
Haywards-David Daley, Jacob Jefferson, Ebb Durkee
Fence Viewer-Daniel Bowe
Highway Suveyors-Ebb Durkee, Jacob Jefferson, Jacob Bowe
Sealer of Weights and Measures-Daniel Bowe

Some of the locations where the early meetings were held:
March 3, 1794 Thomas Hodgkins'
March 3, 1795 Charles Goodrich's mill house
March 8, 1797 Thomas Hodgkins'
March 5, 1798 David Durkee's in Guernsey Hollow
March 12, 1799 David Durkee's
March 26, 1800 David Durkee's
March 11, 1801 David Durkee's
For a few years town meetings were held at the South Middle School
1813 and 1817 John Davis' (Earl Cook's)
1823 School near Daniel Bowe's (South School)
1825 Bowe's Tavern

After towns were settled it was frequently found that socially and economically some sections were more closely allied to an adjacent town than to its own. Partly because of the mountainous terrain and partly because of the need to travel fewer miles to Rochester for trading, settlers in certain sections of Pittsfield petitioned to be annexed to that town. By an act of Legislature in 1806, all the land in the northeast corner of Pittsfield, lying east of the White River, about 575 acres, also, from the north side of town 600 acres, a total of 1175, and later, in 1824 a gore and 18 lots from the northwest corner, containing about 850 acres were annexed to Rochester. Besides the land loss, there was, of course, a resulting loss in population in the 1810 and 1830 censuses.

The same situation worked in reverse, but on a somewhat smaller scale. When the town was laid out, the southern boundary had extended only as far as to include the present Gardner Baker property, but in 1813 the Legislature caused to be annexed from Stockbridge Lot #56, and again, in 1822 was added Lot #57, both in the southeastern part of town, extending the town to its present limits. Also, in the year 1822 certain lands from Sherburne, which include the area known as North Sherburne were set off to Pittsfield, but were returned to Sherburne five years later.

At the 1823 Town Meeting it was voted that the part of Sherburne which was attached to Pittsfield by an act of Legislature in October 1822 be and remain a School District as it was before the act passed.

At the Town Meeting of October 3, 1825, it was voted that the town of Pittsfield cooperate with certain petitioners from Stockbridge in petitioning the Legislature to have certain parts of Stockbridge annexed to Pittsfield. Apparently this was not accomplished, but it is a known fact that families in the western section of South Hill traded here, and supported and attended Church in Pittsfield. In fact, in Bert Houghton's 1934 Speech at the Reception given to him in appreciation of his generosity to the town, during his reminiscences when mentioning the names of people who had been living in every house in town at the time of his departure, in 1884, he included those living on South Hill beginning at the junction with Route 4, near the present Sno Bird Lodge, continuing east to the cemetery, north to the junction with the present Route 100, near John White's and on to Pittsfield.

ROADS

ROADS

The first road connecting Pittsfield with the outside world was the Green Road, which passed from Rutland to Pittsford, over Thomas Hill, through "New Boston" in Chittenden to Pittsfield via what today is known as Townsend Hill by some and Tozier Hill to others. This road was undoubtedly used in 1782 when Samuel Beach's party surveyed the western boundary of Pittsfield. At this time there was no road from the north, east or south into town. In fact, there was only a bridle path from Royalton to Rochester, and north of Rochester marked trees were the only guide to travelers going to Warren and Waitsfield.

The Green Road in Chittenden was discontinued early in the 1800's, when another, known as the North Mountain Road was built. This one, also, crossed from "New Boston" a bit north of where the Green Road crossed the mountains, but it came into Pittsfield via the so-called Upper Michigan Road. This road was in existence into the late 1800's, but only a small portion used by Eagle Square Manufacturing, remains today.

Ebenezer Sparhawk surveyed Tozier Hill road in 1793 beginning on the line between Chittenden and Pittsfield, running past Alba Durkee's (D. W. Long 1869) down to Bowe's Tavern. At this point it went behind Charlie Colton's, over the bridge by the mills, past Jonas Stone's and Ebb Durkee's to the Stockbridge line by the brook---a distance of 989 rods. Another 230 rod section of this road went behind Bowe's Tavern to Gardner Baker's, at that time the boundary between Pittsfield and Stockbridge. In 1800 it was voted to accept the new road leading from the foot of the hill near Asa Gains' to the sawmill and to throw up the old road. This changed the course of the road so that it passed in front of Charlie Colton's.

In 1797 the Liberty Hill Road was laid out. It, too, was surveyed by Ebenezer Sparhawk and passed from Rochester south to Esq. Emerson's and continued in a southerly direction---a distance of three miles and 264 rods.

About 1808 the Stockbridge to Rutland Turnpike was opened. Crockett tells that in the latter part of July, 1811, when Vermont suffered one of the most destructive floods known, that most of the mills and bridges on the White River were carried away, and six miles of this road were damaged beyond repair.

Referring to the above Turnpike built by Elias Keyes of Stockbridge, while in Congress in 1823, Mr. White from Vermont states the following about Esq. Keyes. "An honorable member, my venerable and worthy colleague, from his own private funds has expended more than forty thousand dollars in making a road across the Green Mountains, and though the traveler pays a high toll in passing thereon, for nearly twenty years past this road has not yielded the proprietor one cent more than sufficient to make the necessary repairs."

Later, Mr. Keyes, in opposing a provision to permit certain states through which the Cumberland Road passed, to have possession of such roads and collection of the tolls, said in referring to Vermont roads, "In that part of the country where I live (Stockbridge) when I first went into it, when we had to travel the roads with a cart, or wagon loaded with six or eight hundredweight, we had to employ half a dozen men to hang on one side or the other to keep the cart from turning over; but since we have constructed our turnpike road one man can drive his team with a load of two, or three tons on his wagon."

In 1807 when this Turnpike was being constructed across the mountain, William Blossom worked on this road for Stone and Eddy, camping out the whole time. His pay was thirteen dollars per month.

At the 1809 Town Meeting voters accepted three new roads; the first "beginning by Goodrich's Mills in the center of the Turnpike road opposite Goodrich's barn, running up the Mill Branch to William Blossom's (Donald Peck 1976) and on to Nathan Durkey's.." The second one began at the Turnpike opposite Lovett's (Giorgetti's) and ran southeast ten rods over the Branch. The third one began at the Turnpike opposite Thomas Wolcott's (Gardner Baker's) and followed a northwesterly course ten rods over the Branch.

The Turnpike's course in the village was altered sometime before 1815 as we find in two quit claim deeds of that year "since land was, a few years since, thrown on the west side of the Turnpike by the Turnpike being carried further east than said road formerly ran." Most probably this is the reason for Earl Cook's house setting further west from the road than the other homes in that vicinity because his was the only one standing in that area at the time.

The Stockbridge—Rutland Turnpike passed through Pittsfield, into the northwest corner of Sherburne, past the Coffee House and over the Elbow, turning left past the lime kilns, joining the Woodstock-Rutland Turnpike on Route 4, near the present Mendon Pico Motel. This road was passable till about 1940, but today a beaver pond has blocked that road as well as the right branch leading into Chittenden, which was the old stage road into Chittenden until the 1927 flood.

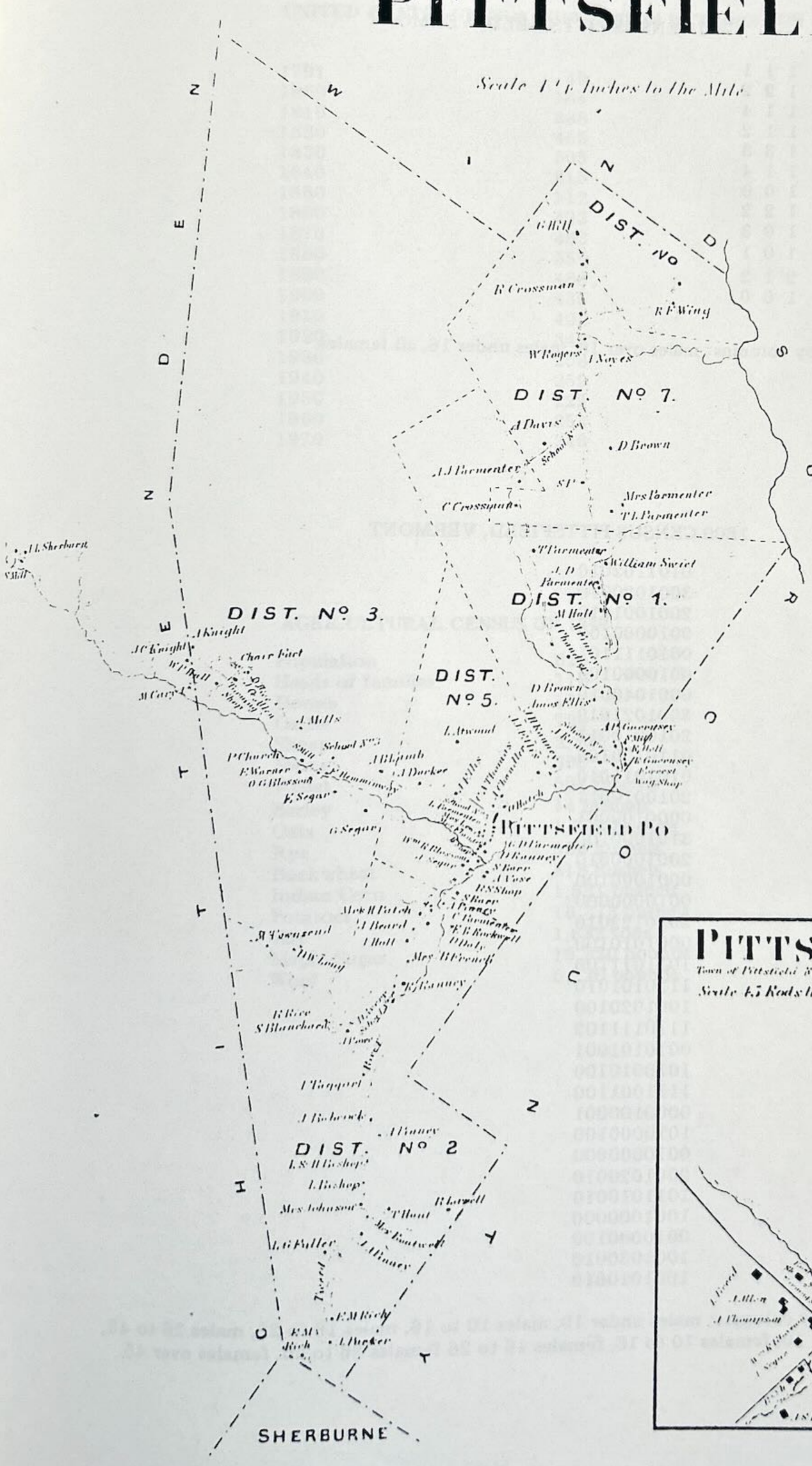
As roads improved wheat, corn and pearlashes could be taken to markets in Boston, Troy or Montreal, and "boughten goods" brought back. Winter roads were smoother and easier to negotiate, and it became the custom for several men to join together in making such trips, paving the way for a system of passenger and freight routes.

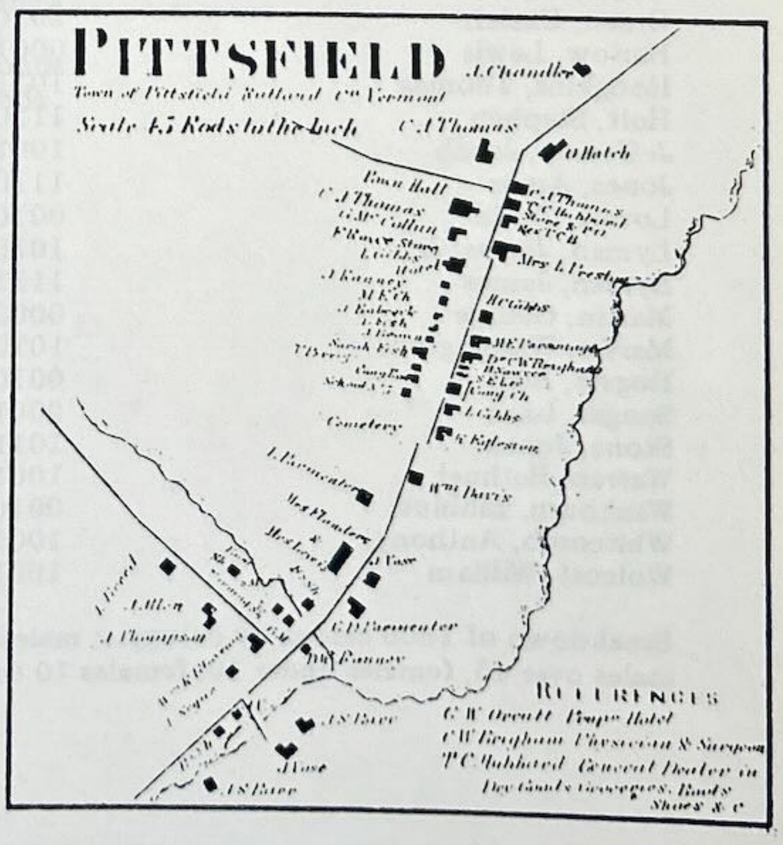
1869 Map taken from Beer's Rutland County Atlas

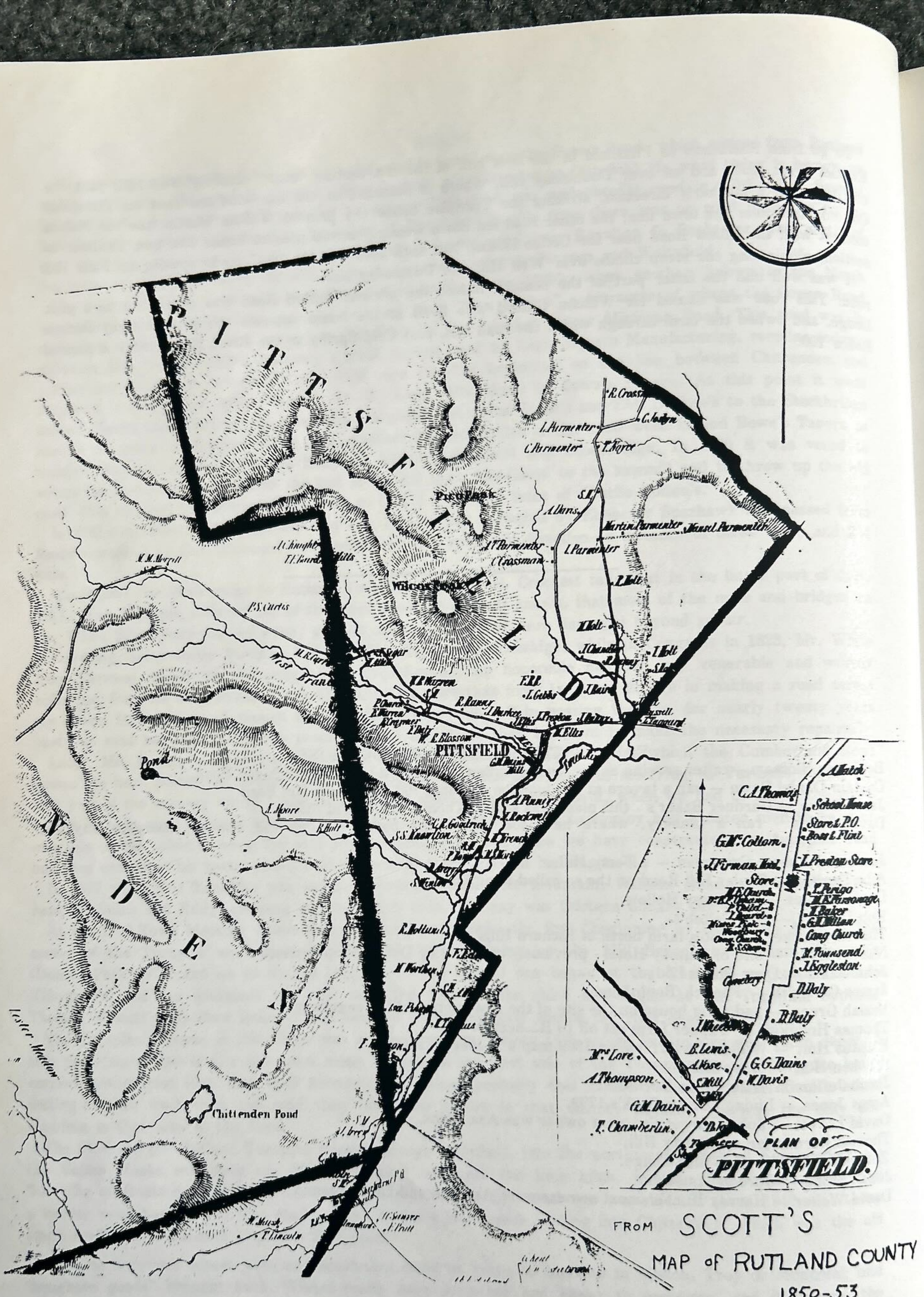
TOWN OF

PITTSFIELD

Scale 1½ Inches to the Mile







Scott's 1850-1853 Map Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society

To go from Sherburne to Pittsfield in the first half of the last century meant climbing Wolf Hill, past the Ezekiel West place and on over Doubleday Hill, where it branched at the top with one road (to Pittsfield) continuing in a northerly direction, striking the Turnpike below the present William Martin (the old Melvin Colton) place near the town line; the other road led down westerly across present Route 100, past Trailside to connect with the Elbow Road near the Coffee House. Not until 1856 was the "cut" made opening up Falls Hill section, eliminating the steep climbs over Wolf Hill and Doubleday Hill.

It was well into the latter part of the century before the present Gifford Road was opened up as a pent road. This road was named for William Gifford who lived in the house opposite the present Gray Bonnet Lodge, and owned the farm through which the road ran, past Cold Spring to the River Road, today a part of Route 100.

EARLY SETTLERS AND THEIR LOCATIONS

Benjamin Blossom — after serving as the second miller he removed to Lower Michigan Road.
Captain Daniel Bowe — ran a tavern at the junction of Route 100 and Tozier Hill Road.
Jacob Bowe — Gardner Baker's - this place was sold to Thomas Wolcott in 1800.
David Daley - ran a tannery, where he made shoes. His house was on the site of Lawrence Taylor's.

Jacob and Robert Crossman — Liberty Hill.
Alba Durkee — Tozier Hill Road on the so-called Long farm.
David Durkee — Guernsey Hollow
Ebb Durkee — Bob Colton's
Timothy Durkee — Gibb's farm north of Richard Ellis'
Nathan Eddy — site of Ranney Hotel - previously occupied by Daniel Shepherdson.
John Gains — Deer Brook Lodge.
James Goodrich — Feerick/Bonin home.
Uzziah Green — had a log house on the site of the new section of the cemetery.
Thomas Hodgkins — Tupper farm set off to Rochester.
Erastus Holt — William Swift farm on 1869 map o . Liberty Hill.
Stephen Holt — Mayo Hill.
Jacob Jefferson — set off to Rochester.
Amos Jones — Living at Earl Cook's 1799.
David Lovett — John Giorgetti's - next owner was Asa Gains.
Thomas Parmenter — Liberty Hill.
Zebedee Sprout — Sno-Bird Lodge.
Jonas Stone — Gordon Amee's.
David Waller — Harvey Hunt's - next owners were Asa Call and Dr. Benjamin Tucker.

1790 CENSUS PITTSFIELD, VERMONT

Bow, Daniel	1	1	1
Bow, Jacob	1	2	2
Dutton, Joseph	1	1	4
Davis, William	1	1	2
Holt, Stephen	1	3	3
Hodgkins, Thomas	1	1	4
Gains, John	1	0	0
Martin, George	1	2	2
Warner, Israel	1	0	3
Warner, David	1	0	1
Warner, Joseph	2	1	2
Whitcomb, Anthony	1	0	0

Breakdown of 1790 census by columns: males over 16, males under 16, all females.

1800 CENSUS PITTSFIELD, VERMONT

Blossom, Benjamin	0101102010
Bow, Daniel	3001020010
Bryant, Samuel	2001001010
Campbell, Abel	0010000100
Crossman, Jacob	0010111101
Crossman, Robert	0010000100
Daley, David	0001040010
Davis, William	3001021010
Durkee, Albia	2010010011
Durkee, David	0110100100
Durkee, Ebenezer	0101011010
Durkee, Timothy	2010010011
Eddy, Nathan	0000100001
Eddy, Nathan, Jr.	3101000100
Gains, Asa	2001000010
Gains, John	0001000100
Goodrich, James	0010000000
Green, Uzziah	3010122010
Harlow, Lewis	0001010100
Hodgkins, Thomas	1011011100
Holt, Stephen	1120101010
Jefferson, Jacob	1001020100
Jones, Amos	1110111102
Lovett, David	0010101001
Lyman, James, Jr.	1010010100
Lyman, James	1111001100
Martin, George	0000100001
Martin, Washington	1010000100
Rogers, Bent	0010000000
Sanger, Isaac	2001020010
Stone, Jonas	1011010010
Warren, Bethuel	1001000000
Washburn, Libbius	0010000100
Whitcomb, Anthony	1001030010
Wolcott, William	1001010010

Breakdown of 1800 census by columns: males under 10, males 10 to 16, males 16 to 26, males 26 to 45, males over 45, females under 10, females 10 to 16, females 16 to 26 females 26 to 45, females over 45.

UNITED STATES CENSUS POPULATION RETURNS FOR PITTSFIELD

1791	49
1800	164
1810	338
1820	453
1830	505
1840	615
1850	512
1860	493
1870	483
1880	555
1890	468
1900	435
1910	402
1920	343
1930	256
1940	259
1950	225
1960	254
1970	249

AGRICULTURAL CENSUS OF 1840

Population	615
Heads of families	118
Horses	117
Cattle	729
Sheep	2,358
Swine	390
Wheat	584 bushels
Barley	14 bushels
Oats	1,956 bushels
Rye	294 bushels
Buckwheat	818 bushels
Indian Corn	1,531 bushels
Potatoes	16,373 bushels
Hay	1,632 tons
Maple Sugar	19,920 pounds
Wool	5,220 pounds

CHURCHES

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

According to *Vermont Congregational Churches* by John M. Comstock the Congregationalists in Pittsfield first organized in March 1793. However, in September 1803 it was re-organized under the direction of Rev. Martin Fuller of Royalton with sixteen members, and for years was known as the Church of Pittsfield and Stockbridge.

Until the year 1813 the church was served by circuit ministers. The four earliest preachers were Archibald Campbell, Isaac P. Lowe, Prince Jenne and John Ransom.

One of the best known supplied ministers was Lemuel Haynes, who was "colored", born in Connecticut, an illegitimate foundling brought up by white neighbors. He served in the Revolutionary War and was with Ethan Allen at Ticonderoga. The white girl he married in Connecticut in 1783 had to do the proposing, according to the story, because Lemuel was too bashful. Soon after his marriage he moved to Vermont where he was for 30 years the highly respected minister of the Rutland West Parish Church.

Another supplied minister was Elder Rich, a rather heavy man, who walked a distance of twelve miles from Pittsford to Pittsfield through the woods.

Under the direction of Rev. Phineas Randall, a powerful revival was conducted in July, 1810, resulting in fifty-six new church members. A second revival was held by Rev. Calvin Noble of Rochester which lasted a week in March, 1838, at which time another thirty members were admitted.

In the year 1813, Rev. Justin Parsons moved to town to become Pittsfield's first settled Congregational minister. Due to financial reasons, Rev. Parsons was dismissed in 1831 and again the church was supplied by circuit ministers. It was during Parsons' tenure that a new church was realized.

On June 22, 1819, James Goodrich gave to the Congregationalists land "beginning at an old stump eleven rods and four feet from David Daley's dwelling" on which to build a church and horse sheds. At a cost of one thousand dollars the meeting house was erected the very next year on the aforementioned land.

Under the auspices of Rev. Scott the church was raised up, a vestry placed beneath and a belfry and bell added in 1859. It was not until 1869 that a parsonage was acquired, now owned by Selden Taylor, but as early as 1843 this building had been used to house the Congregational ministers.

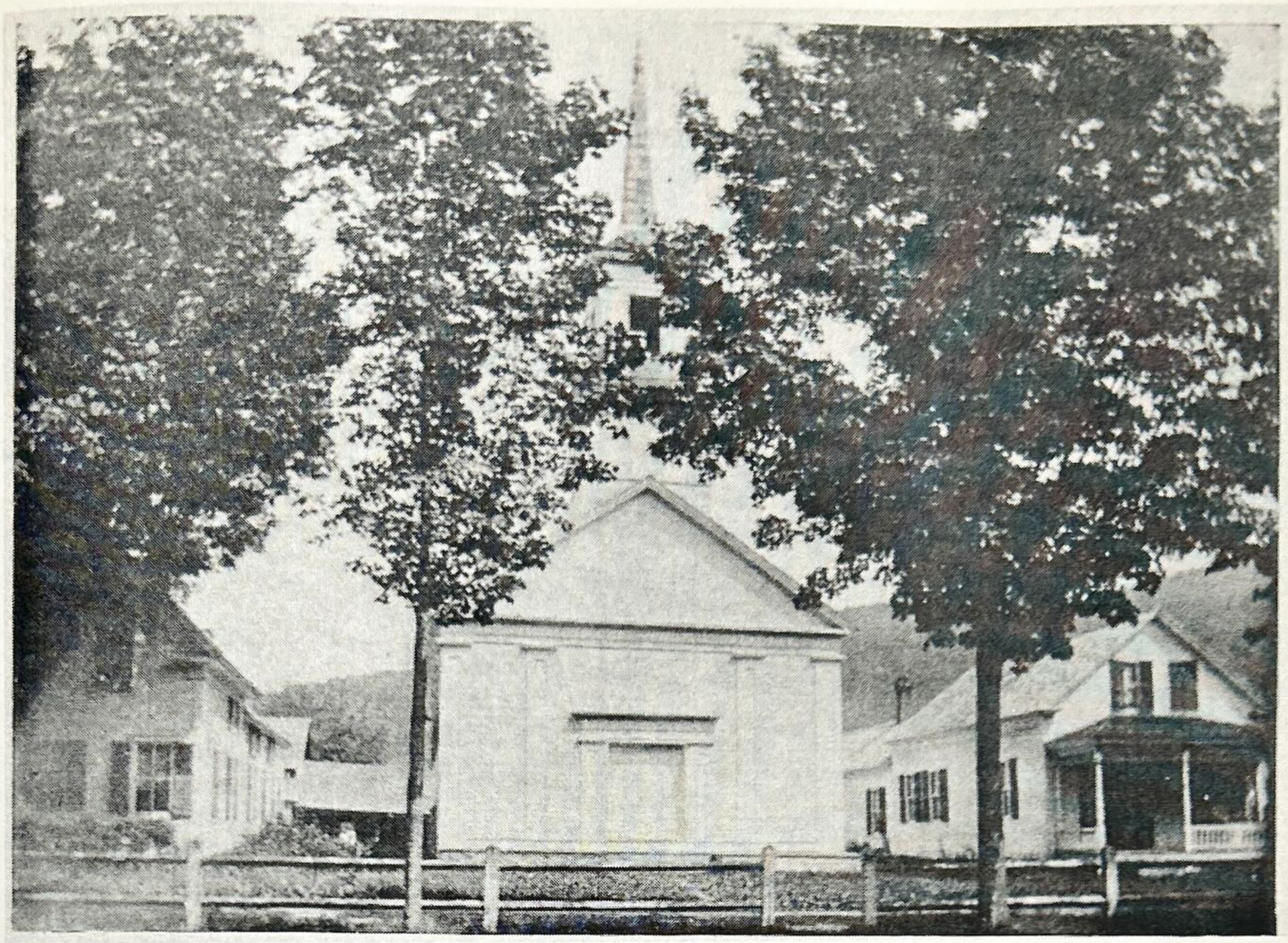
Several members of this church became theologians:

Levi Parsons son of the minister died 1822 at Alexandria, Egypt
S. W. Segar
Stephen Knowlton
Julius C. McCollum
Charles W. Emerson
Hiram Eddy

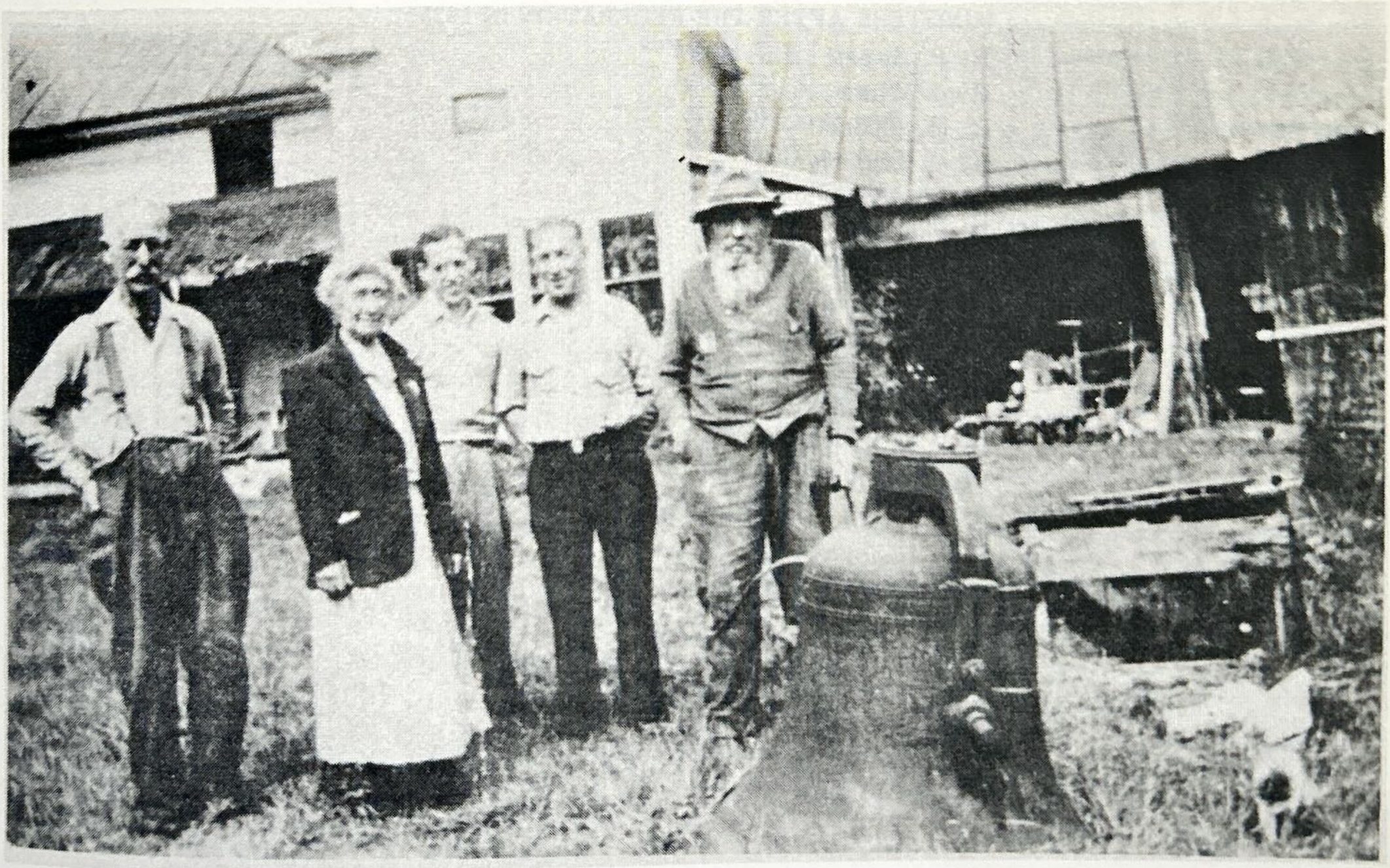
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH BELL

This bell in use in the Congregational Church since 1859 was salvaged when the Church burned in 1925, and was in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Stedman Stoddard for many years. It was last used publicly in Pittsfield to celebrate V-J Day, September 2, 1945, when a group of young people, using a wrecker, picked up the bell and traveled from one end of the town to the other and to all the side roads, ringing out the good news.

The present whereabouts of the bell is not known.



Congregational Church



Congregational Church Bell after 1925 fire.

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTERS BEGINNING IN 1813

Justin Parsons
Daniel Rockwell
Joseph Marsh
John Stearns
Samuel Sparhawk
Benjamin Abbott
J. B. Clark
Thomas Duncan
Abel Patten
A. S. Swift
Charles Scott
A. W. Weld
Samuel Sparhawk
J. B. Clark
T. S. Hubbard
A. Holden
C. H. Smith
T. S. Hubbard
M. George
H. Conry
A. J. Smith
T. S. Hubbard
F. Hazen
F. W. Day
R. A. Eusden
P. A. Davies
E. E. Robbins

MINISTERS AFTER THE FEDERATION IN 1925

H. P. Sweet
Hugh White
R. H. Blodgett
A. G. Scambler
R. W. Fitzgerald
P. Paul Pardy
Olaf Johnson
Albert Brown
Marion Stickney
Willis Dodge
John Wenzel
Dr. David Reid
Mrs. Elwin Leysath
R. Odiorne, the present minister

METHODIST CHURCH

Joseph Crawford preached the first Methodist sermon ever given in town, and, as a direct result the Methodist Church was soon after organized in 1802 with eight members. Mr. Crawford became its first minister. Because there was no meeting house or parsonage, services were held at the members' homes, the pastors boarding wherever they could.

At one point, Methodism in Pittsfield was in danger of being wiped out by a new sect called the Christian Church led by Rev. Edward Rollins of Rochester. But soon all returned to normal and a Methodist Society was formed at the home of James Goodrich (Feerick/Bonin 1976) in 1822 with twenty-eight members.

In 1825, Mr. Goodrich gave the Methodists land for a meeting house located on the west side of the Turnpike, south of David Daley's, with the stipulation that they build within the next ten to fifteen years. For some reason this never took place, and the land reverted to Daniel Bowe Jr. who had bought the Goodrich home in the meantime. However, about 1830 the members did decide to erect a new meeting house on the site of the present Federated Church. After it was built Elisha and Amos Holt sold the land that the new church stood on to the Methodist Society in 1831 for the consideration of $12.84.

In 1859, the first church building was sold to the town, and moved to another location to be used as a Town Hall. Rufus Holt built the second Methodist Church in the same year on the site of the original. Rev. Ira Beard, the pastor at the time, was very instrumental in accomplishing the above. This Church was renovated in 1882 complete with a spire, and in 1903 the chapel was added.

Then in 1914 disaster struck in the form of a fire which totally demolished the structure. But again in 1917, for the third time in eighty-seven years, the Methodists erected a new Church which survives to this day as the Federated Church.

Due to lack of finances and diminished attendance, the Methodist and Congregational Churches had no other recourse but to unite. This was accomplished in 1925 with services being held alternately in each Church. It was at this time when worship was being held at the Methodist Church that the Congregational building burned, leaving only the Methodist Church to serve Pittsfield.

In 1920 Dr. Fremont and Zilpha (Ranney) Axtelle gave a new organ to the Church in memory of Jonathan and Lucy Jane (Guernsey) Ranney, and Charles and Sarah (Cox) Brigham. Later Mrs. Mabel Ranney had the organ repaired in the name of her husband Dr. Archibald Ranney. In 1940 an electric pumper was added. It was about this time that Mr. Bert Houghton had electric fixtures installed in the Church.

METHODIST MINISTERS BEGINNING IN 1835

Dennis Wells
J. Cummings
F. T. Daily
Richard Newhall
James Slason
Lyman Wing
F. T. Daly
W. Hemingway
F. T. Daly
R. Kimball
F. T. Daly
R. Kimball
F. T. Daly
D. Willis
G. B. Houston
Ira Beard
E. D. Hopkins
Albert Carter
Ira Beard
Thomas Hardman
J. W. Barnes
L. H. Hooker
R. H. Spaulding
L. H. Hooker
J. A. Sherburne
E. C. Bass
W. J. Kidder
N. P. Granger
H. S. Forest
G. Johnson
H. F. Roberts
J. W. Cline
M. Adams
Chester Dingman
O. A. Farley
J. W. Hitchcock
Chester Dingman
W. Smithers
E. H. Bartlett
F. Goodrich
---Bushnel
A. C. Vail
---Emery
---Fuller
W. A. Ford
M. Parounagian
W. Roberts
W. Stott
E. L. M. Barnes
J. G. Hazelton
G. S. Smith
J. G. Hazelton
A. W. Atwood
Percival Hewitt
Mabel Whitney
C. Johnson
H. Y. Geness
F. J. Griffin

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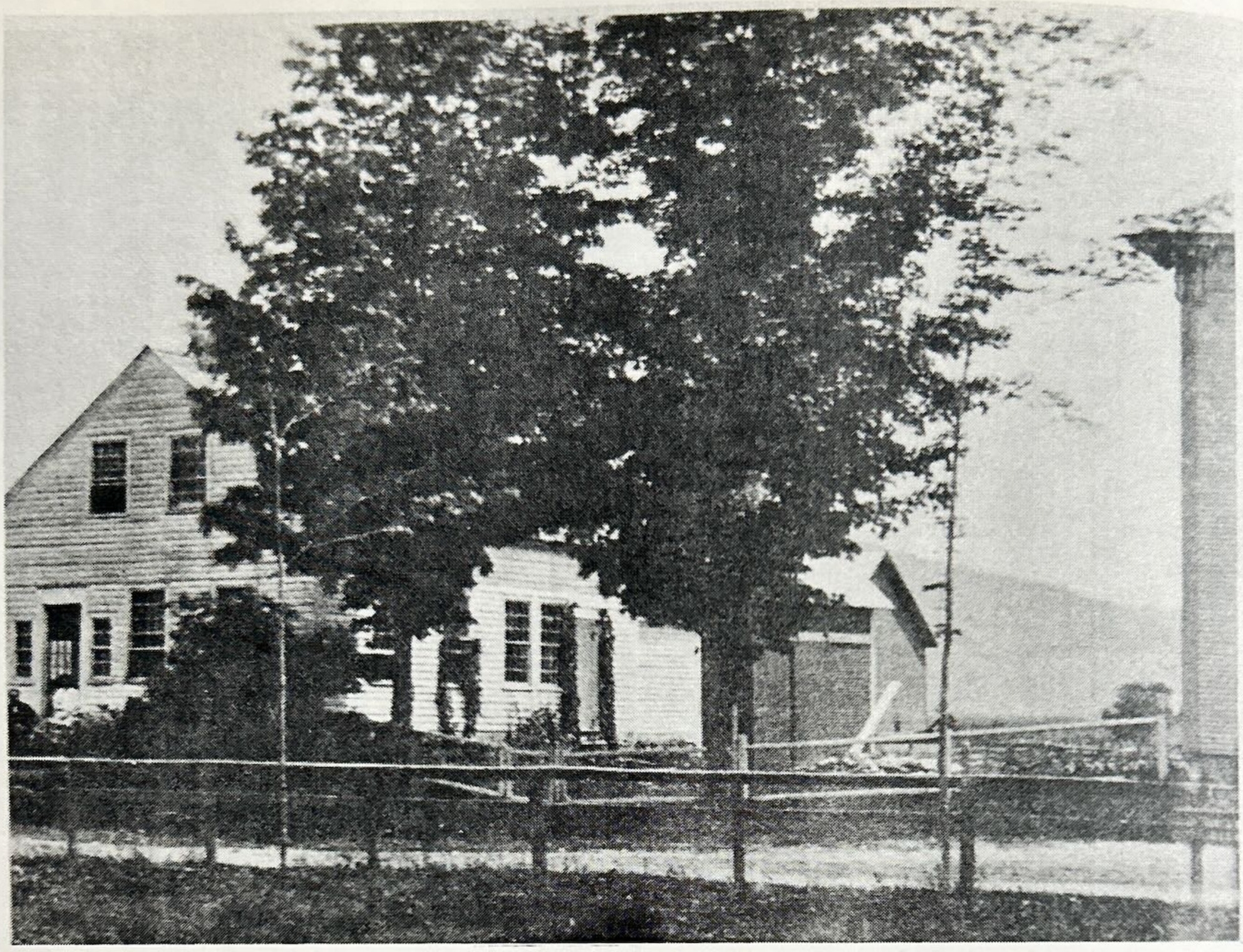
A. W. Atwood
Percival Hewitt
Mabel Whitney
C. Johnson
H. Y. Geness
F. J. Griffin

Old Town Hall built 1830 by Methodists for a Meeting House, used after 1855, also for Town Meetings. Purchased by the town in 1859 and moved to this site (between Powers' Store and Bessie Wilson's house). Again moved in 1934 to the east side of the common where it's presently situated.



Old Methodist Parsonage

Methodist Parsonage after Renovation.

METHODIST PARSONAGE

George McCollum's Account Book belonging to Mary O. Davis, shows an 1835 agreement between him and Daniel Bowe, Jr. to do work on the house that was later to become the Methodist Parsonage;

"I hereby agree to do the joiner work on and in the house, barn and backhouse for Daniel Bowe to correspond with that of Ebenezer Child's house and barn, only some of the work a little better, to have it completed by the first of September next - the said Bowe is to find the sash, all but the small sash, and for said work I am to have one hundred dollars in saleable neat stock and grain the first day of October next, Twenty-five in grain the January following and Twenty-five in saleable neat stock the first day of October next after. To seal one room as high as the windows and on further consideration I am to have eight dollars more because I board myself."

This house was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Society for a Parsonage in 1848.

According to a letter from Joel Nichols, the old parsonage was remodeled in the summer of 1889 under the direction of the Holden Brothers who were living at the Boarding House. Money and materials were donated by members of the church. His father, George Nichols agreed to furnish the lime, so, Joel aged 12 left home at 4:00 A.M. for the lime kilns in Plymouth. The lime was not ready, as promised, the men being somewhat inebriated, so Joel was obliged to do much of the loading himself, so did not arrive home till about 5:00 the next morning.

CATHOLICS

The South Schoolhouse, having for some years been unused, was purchased in the 1950's for use as a Catholic Chapel, with a priest supplied from St. Anthony's Parish in Bethel. In 1971, finding the need for larger quarters, an agreement was reached with the Federated Church to share that building for services. Schedules are arranged, so there are no conflicts in the programs of the separate groups.

Pastors who have been assigned to serve this parish include: Rev. Paul Orzech, Rev. Lucien Duquette, Rev. Forrest Rouelle, Rev. William H. Kelley, the present pastor.

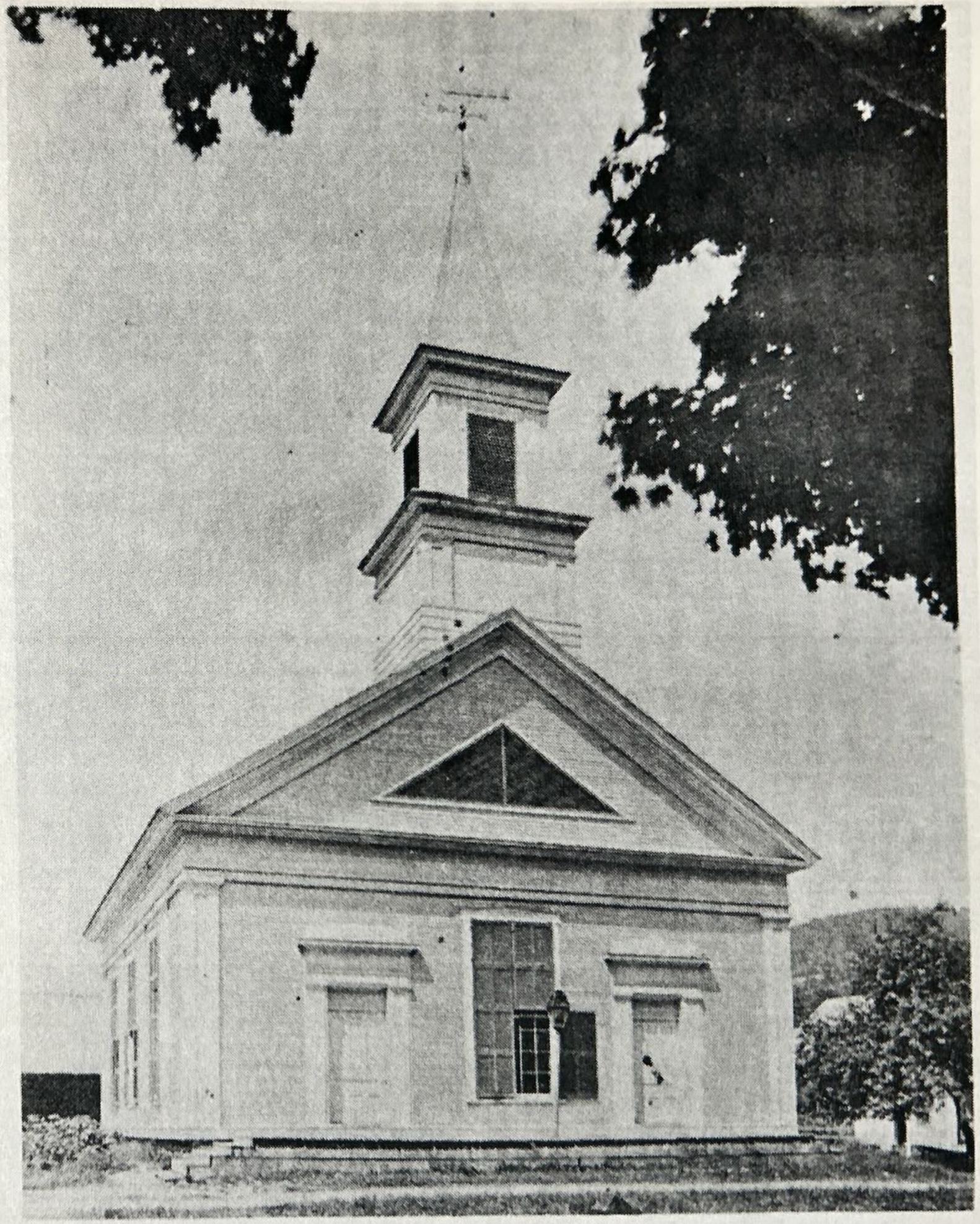
Since none of those involved is still alive, and to show the contrast between events today and those a bit more than a century ago, we submit the following:

In 1859, as has been stated elsewhere, the Methodists built a new church, after having sold to the town the old building which had previously also been used for Freeman's and Town Meetings, accepting in payment from the Selectmen 3 notes to be paid over a period of 3 years. Not to be outdone, the Congregationalists, in the same year, completely remodeled their church, adding a bell tower, new bell and steeple. Was it jealousy, or spite, which caused the passage at the next Town Meeting, of a vote instructing the Selectmen *not* to honor the notes given for the old Methodist Chapel? None here can say.

The building had been moved (between Powers' Store and Bessie Wilson's house), but as far as we can learn, sat idle and unused. Town Meetings for 1861, 1862, 1863 and 1864 were held elsewhere. Not until December 3, 1864, after tempers had cooled and a Special Town Meeting called for that purpose, was it agreed to pay the Methodists for the building which is today the Town Hall, "with only 3 dissenting votes", and as the Town Clerk indicated after recording the above, "with apparent good feeling". The Methodists had had their day, for a time.

When the town voted two years later (1866) to build a new schoolhouse on the site of the old blacksmith shop (presently the new part of Cemetery) a bit more land was needed, 9¼ square rods, to be exact. The Congregational Parsonage land adjoined this property, but that society refused to sell. The Selectmen were then instructed to proceed according to statute, and appraise the land. The $75 appraisal was still unacceptable to the Congregationalists, but they did agree to submit the matter to 3 disinterested persons, for arbitration, and were apparently satisfied with the $125 suggested. This round went to the Congregationalists.

The latest, and truly ecumenical approach was taken in 1971; when the Catholics, who had outgrown their little chapel, were invited to share this building, and through the joint efforts of all faiths, Pittsfield has, since December 1975, enjoyed a taped system of Carillon Bells which can be heard daily at 9:00 a.m., 12:00 Noon, and 5:00 p.m.



Old Methodist Church - built in 1959, on the site of the first Methodist Meeting House, when that building was sold to the town. Destroyed by fire in 1915

SCHOOLS

The old Robert B. Tupper school located on Rt. 100 just north of the Stockbridge line between the Tupper Farm and the Present Bernard Campbell farm.

SCHOOLS

At a meeting in March 1800, it was voted:

"all the inhabitants on the White River that are in Pittsfield and so to James Lyman's be known by the name of the Northern District, and all south of said Lyman's be in one district known as the Southern District."

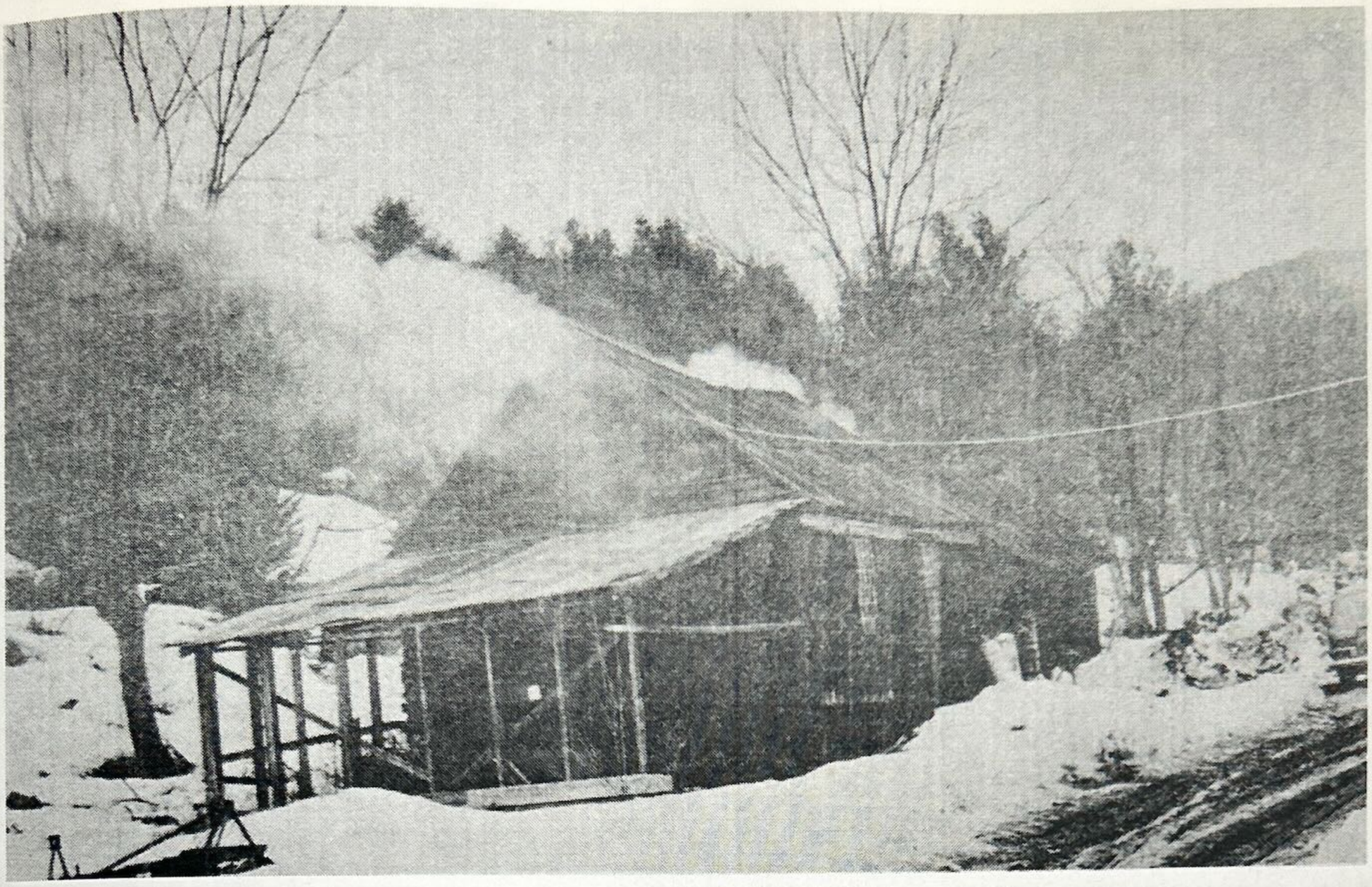
We are not sure where Lyman lived but perhaps we can make an educated guess from the following items.

April 15, 1800 "Voted that the South School District shall be divided into 2 distinct districts in the senter between Mr. James Lyman's and Mr. Thomas Wilcott's (Gardner Baker's)

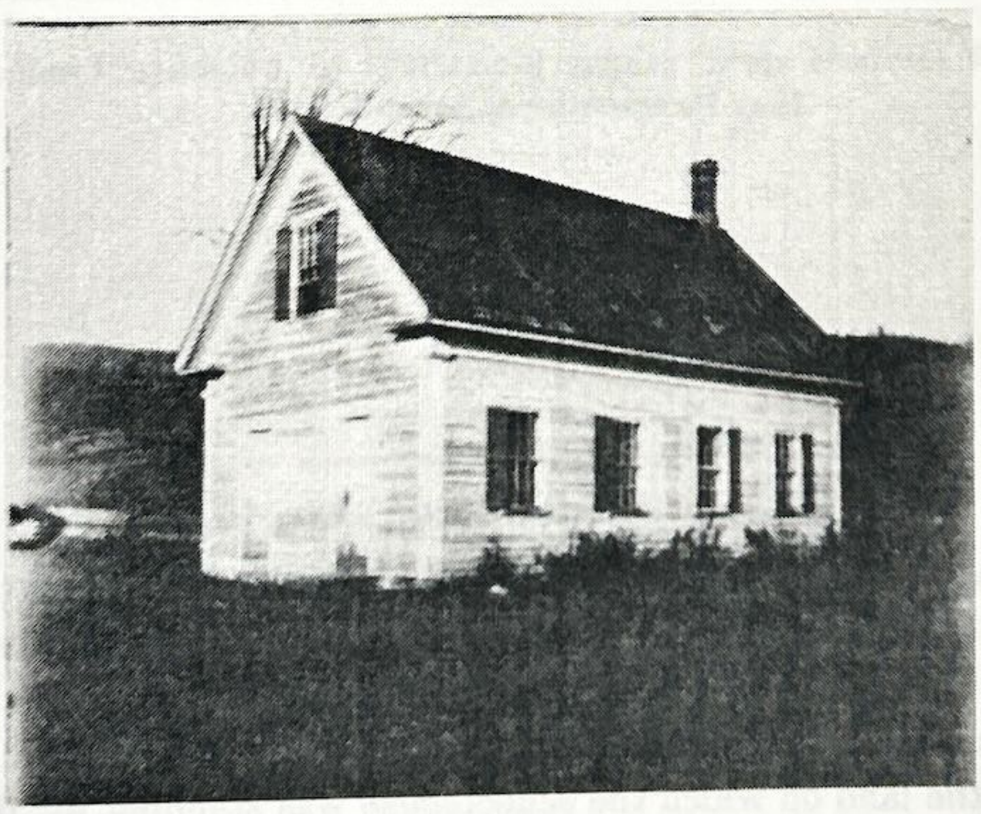
also,

March 11, 1801. "Voted that the South School District shall come at the line between the Uzziah Green land and Amos Jones land (Earl Cook's) and the Middle District shall extend from said Green's to include James Lyman".

The Northern School District was divided when it was voted March 5, 1827 "that part of the Robert B. Tupper Farm and the old Martin farms which lie on the west of the White River shall be annexed to the school district in Rochester in which R.B. Tupper lives." This school was established by an act of the Legislature October 28, 1828, but at the request of citizens from both towns, the district being too large, large enough to support 2 schools, School District #2 was dissolved as of July 4, 1840, under the direction of Judge David Pierce (Windsor County Court). The three Justices of the Peace appointed by him, Justin Morgan, Leonard Ainsworth and John Forrest, directed that the schoolhouse and other property owned in common, be disposed of and the avails be divided among the inhabitants composing the district, on the basis of the list of 1839.



Old South Middle School built 1800.



School #1 built 1880. Now a barn on the Bob Colton property.

SCHOOL #1 OR SOUTH MIDDLE

For a few years school was kept at the miller's house, but on December 1, 1800 it was voted to choose Thomas Hodgkins, Amos Jones and Stephen Holt to supervise finishing the schoolhouse and set up a school. On December 25 of the same year they hired Rufus Lyon to teach three months and to let everyone on the Branch send their children there. Contributions paid $221.99 toward the schoolhouse.

In 1824 there were seventy-six pupils attending here;in 1835 sixty-two, and in 1857, thirty-one from Pittsfield and six from Stockbridge. Until 1828 this school went by the name of South Middle when it was changed to District #1.

This building was moved from its original site on the north side of Liberty Hill Road, across the road to the present Bob Colton property, but has since been torn down. In 1881 a new school was built on the same spot where the old one had stood and several years ago it, too, was moved onto Colton's where it's used as a storage barn at present.

May Parmenter at South School.

SCHOOL #2 OR OLD SOUTH SCHOOL

According to deeds pertaining to the Joseph Lamb property the authors feel that this school first stood across the road from its present location. At that time there was one dwelling and a school between Harvey Hunt's and Deer Brook Lodge. It is not certain when this school came into being, but it was used as such by 1817.

The name of South School was discontinued in 1828 when it was changed to District #2. That year Peleg Bowe, who was living at the tavern, sold the land on which the schoolhouse was standing for fifty cents. Somewhere between 1824-1828, either the school was moved across the road to Bowe's land or a new building had been erected. In 1824 there were forty-three students; in 1835 sixty-eight;and in 1857 only fourteen.

This structure has since been used as a Catholic church, but now houses Flat Iron Real Estate and Antiques. Mrs. Ronald Hance of Rutland has in her possession a speller written by Elihu Marshall, published by James L. Cutler and Co. at Bellows Falls in 1821, and used in this school by Esther Avery in 1829.

DISTRICT #3 OR NORTHWEST SCHOOL

On December 14, 1826 Levi Hill deeded to the town the land on which the Northwest school was to be built. He also granted the privileges of a woodyard and of the scholars passing to the brook for drinking water.

There must have been an earlier school in this district because the town records state that in 1824 it had twenty-four scholars; in 1835 fifty-three;and in 1857 twenty-two. The name of the Northwest School was changed in 1828 to District #3.

The so-called Pember school attended by Pittsfield pupils from District #4 on Liberty Hill.

SCHOOL #4

In 1802 Rochester and Pittsfield voted to join for schooling in the Liberty Hill area. Beer's 1869 map shows no number for this district, but it is known to have been #4 in Pittsfield and #12 in Rochester. Records for this school may be found in the Library at Rochester. The schoolhouse was in Rochester, and the one there now, erected in 1855 was used jointly until the 1940's by both towns, supported in alternate years by each town.

SCHOOL #5

March 5, 1835 "Voted that there be a new school district formed to be detached from Districts #1 and #2, to extend as far north as to take in Jonas Delanos (G. Amee), all of said District #1 lying south of said Delanos, and as far south on District #2 as to take in all the part of the Goodrich farm lying in said district, Orton Hatch, S.B. Spaulding and Horace Child (Franklin Sulham area); that the new district shall be called District #5.

At this time there were 35 scholars in this area.

February 13, 1836. Item 7: "to see if the town will permit School #5 to build a schoolhouse on the Burying Ground lot.

Item 8: To see if the town will raise a sum of money to build a town house in connection with the schoolhouse about to be built in District #5.

The next 2 items indicate that neither of these passed.

"Voted to pay District #5 $9 per year for the use of the upper room in their schoolhouse to hold Town and Freeman's Meetings; said room to be completely fitted by the district."

March 18, 1837. "Horace Childs deeds to District #5 for $10, the following land: Beginning at the SW corner of the land of Paul Holt, at the NW corner of land deeded to me by George McCollum; E on the line of the Turnpike to the NW corner of the Schoolhouse; S to the SE corner; W to the Turnpike; N to first bounds, for a Necessary on the NE corner of the School".

August 14, 1846

The Town Room in School #5 was damaged by fire, so meetings will be held in the Methodist Chapel. Payment will be $9 per year for the same.

May 19, 1866

It was voted to build a new school for District #5 upon the ground where the old Blacksmith Shop now stands (the site of Uzziah Green's first log cabin in the village, now the new section of the cemetery) and adjoining land from the First Congregational Society (then the Parsonage and now Selden Taylor's). However, the Congregationalists refused to sell, so the Selectmen were petitioned to survey and appraise the land in question, according to statute.

Having purchased the Blacksmith Shop and land from the Doty heirs, it was found that 9 and one-tenth rods of land was needed, which was appraised at $75.

The Congregational Society was still not satisfied with the arrangement, but agreed to submit the matter to arbitration, at which time it was decided that while the referees did not regard that location as most desirable, but not being authorized to reverse that decision they decided $125 was a fair price.

Less than 15 years later, the HERALD & NEWS of December 16, 1880 reports: "Urging for building a graded school in the village. There are about 60 pupils in the village district. There probably are teachers who can control and teach this number, at least it was done years ago, but for some reason or other, it has not been very satisfactorily accomplished here lately."

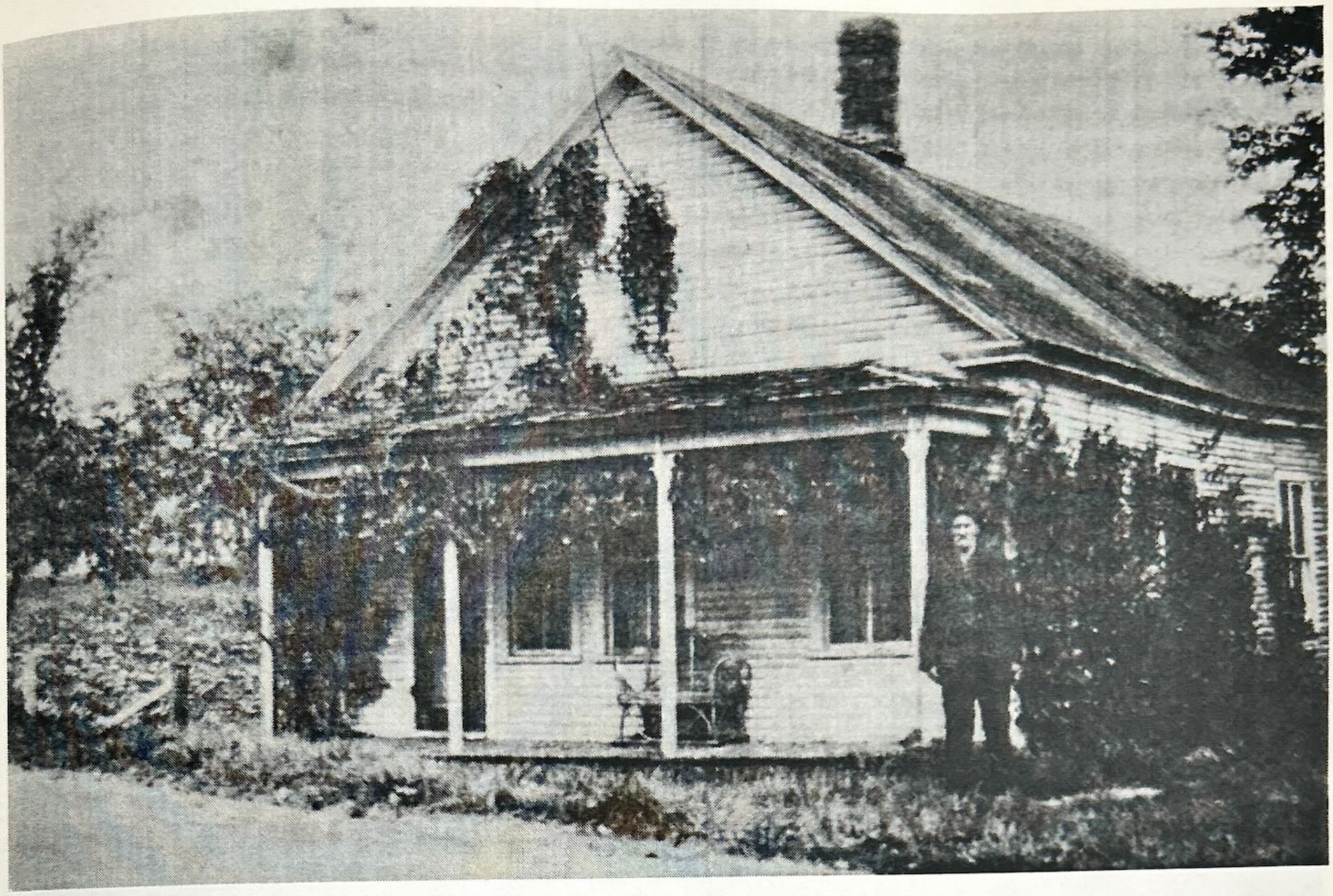
February 10, 1881. "The Ku Klux Klan, or some other enemy of civilization and decency, has made an attack on the village schoolhouse, rendering it unfit for occupancy, knocking out door panels, frescoing the walls with images of hobgoblins, and defiling the whole structure in the most dastardly manner."

April 26, 1883. School District Number 5 is to build a new Schoolhouse this summer. Work under contract will done by McCollum and Holt".

The new schoolhouse was erected on the site of the former school, and here it remained until 1934, when the schoolhouse was moved to the east side of the Park, through the generosity of Mr. Bert Houghton. Sessions continued to be held here until 1969 when it was decided, in the interests of economy and better education for the children, to unite with the Stockbridge School, sending the first 6 grades there, and the seventh and eighth grades to Bethel, as were the high school pupils.

This is not, however the end of the story. On September 8, 1973, the lower room of this building was dedicated, as a Library, in the name of Roger Clark, one of its former pupils, who gave his life in action in Viet Nam, July 10, 1967.

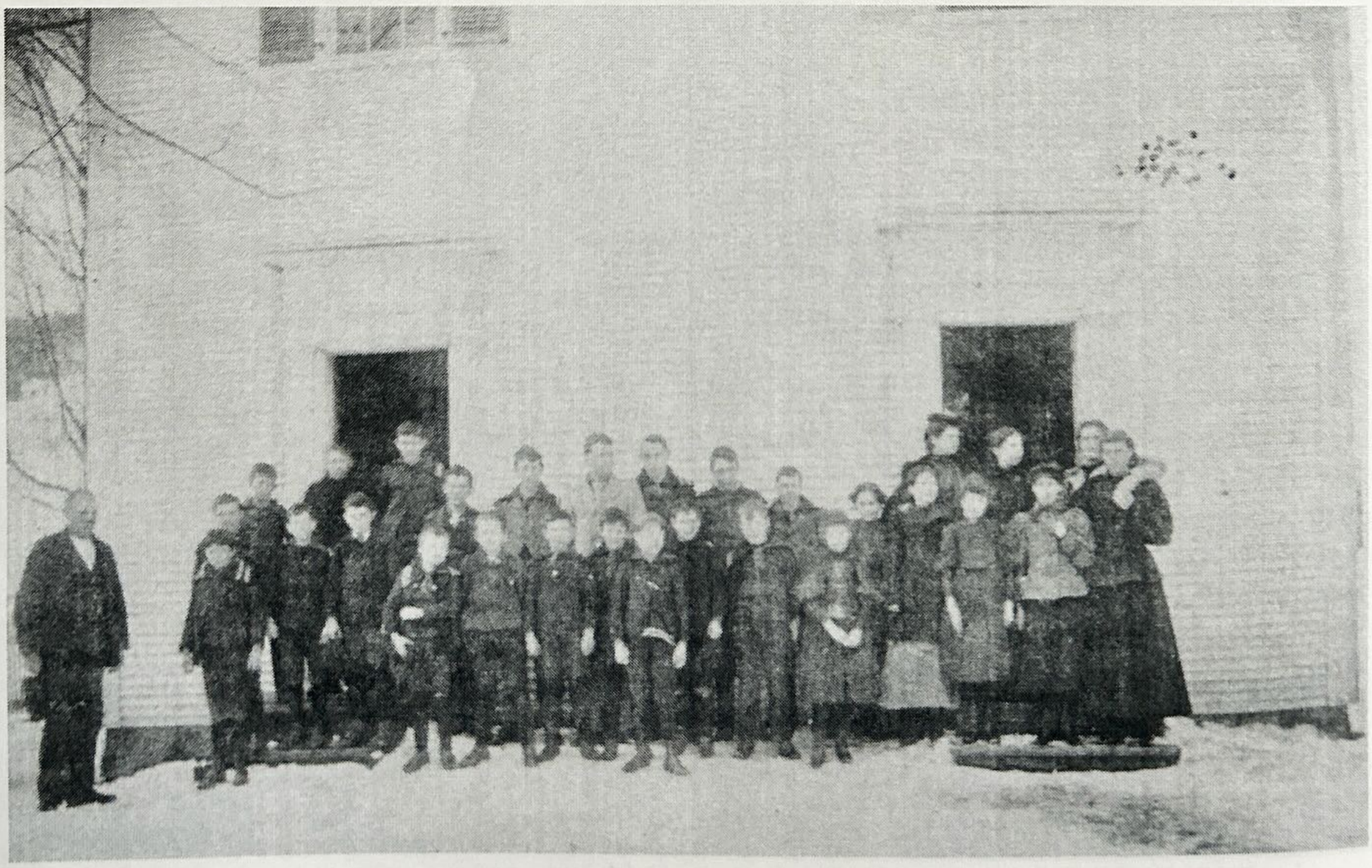
The basement room was later converted to a Town Clerk's Office, with fireproof safe for papers and books, convenient desks and tables and carpeting was installed. The upper room serves as a Town Officers' Room.



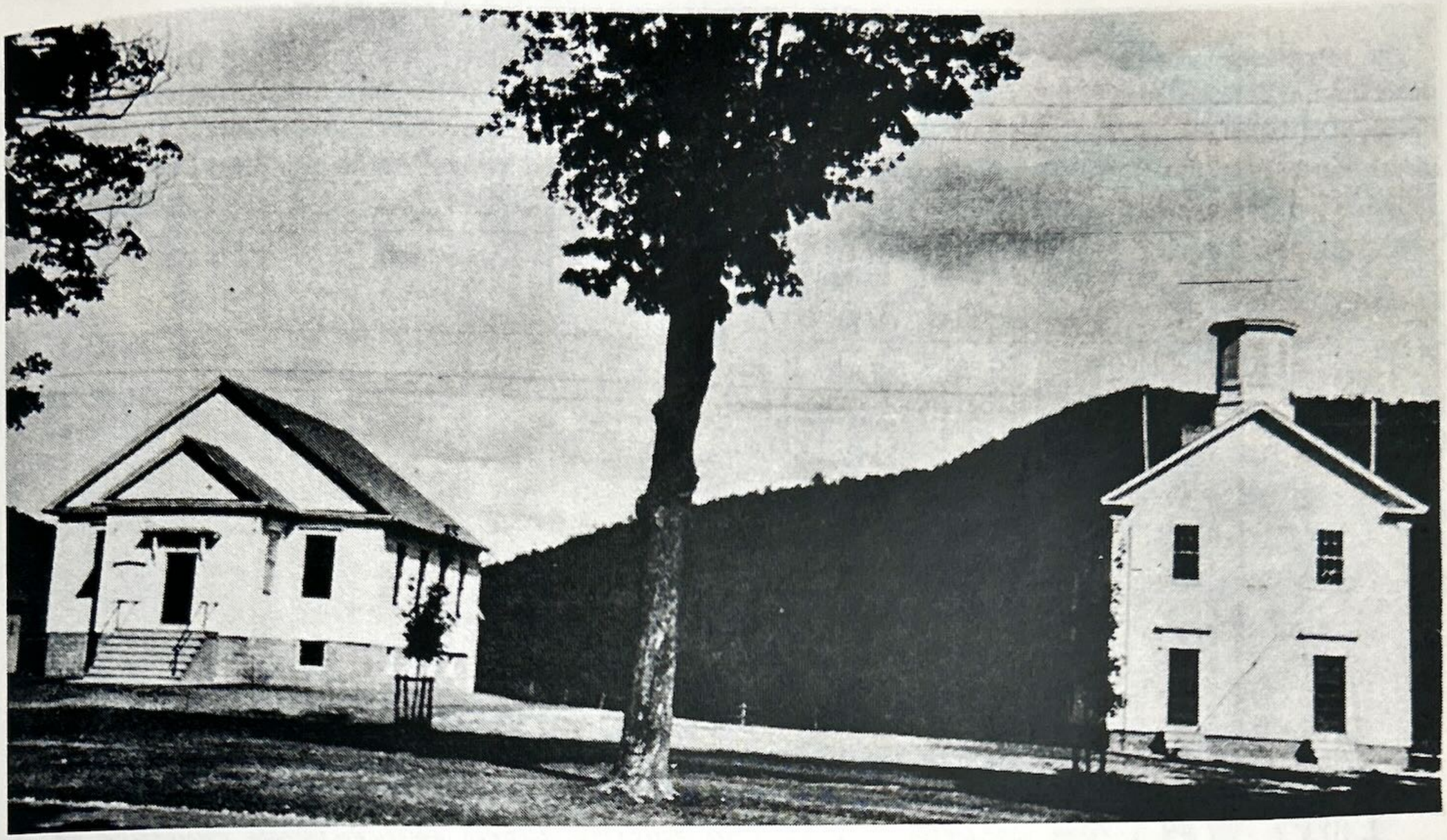
First Village School #5 built in 1835, office for Pittsfield Iron Co., converted to a dwelling last owned by Irving Johnson - burned 1938. Site of Fire House, 1976.

Scholars at School #5. Maud Parmenter is the teacher.

Pupils at School #5.



Students at School #5. Teacher is Luther Taylor.



Town Hall and School #5 after 1934 when moved to the east side of the park. Today the School building houses the Roger Clark Library and Town Clerks Office.

SCHOOL #6

In 1842 part of District #2 was set off as District #6. This school was located just up South Hill Road on the right. By 1853 it was still in use, but must have been discontinued sometime before 1869 because it is not listed on Beer's map.

DISTRICT #7

The townsmen voted in March 1847 to form a new school district and that it was to be know as District #7. It is described as follows: the Williams farm, the Hewett and Emerson farm, the Goddard and Cooper farms, the Isaiah Parmenter farm and all the other improved lands lying in back of the Hewitt farm, Africa Davis, Carmi Huntley, Isaiah Parmenter and Mansil Parmenter's farms, Calvin Parmenter land, the old Parmenter farm and all other lands included within the above bounds. This school was built near the upper junction of the Liberty Hill Road. Mrs. Hance was given an 1864 diary kept by Susan Colton, later Mrs. Dailey Parmenter, while she was teaching here.

Teacher's Certificate.

Pittsfield, May 14th 1864.

This certifies that Susan A Colton has this day been examined and found qualified to instruct in the several branches required to be taught in the public schools of this State. And having given satisfactory evidence of good moral character, is hereby licensed to teach in the town of Pittsfield, for the term of one year from this date.

C. W. Brigham Superintendent.

Semi-Monthly Report of

Maud A. Parmenter

for Summer Term, 1881

Half Month.	Deportment.	Absences.	Tardies.	STUDIES.		PARENT'S SIGNATURE.
				Geography	Arithmetic	Parents and Guardians are requested to examine and sign this report, and return it the next morning the school opens.
1st.	10	0	1	6	8	G. A Parmenter
2d.	10	0	0	8	8	G. A Parmenter
3d.	10	0	0	8	8	G. A Parmenter
4th.	10	0	0	8	10	H. D Parmenter
5th.	10	0	0	8	8	Lue Parmenter
6th.	8	0	0	8	8	H. D Parmenter
7th.	10	0	0	8	10	

☞ Standard of scholarship and deportment is: 10, perfect; 8, good; 6, passable; 5, very poor; 0, failure.

☞ Parents and guardians are requested to co-operate with the teacher in maintaining good order, punctuality in attendance, promptness in lessons and earnestness in study.

Gilphie E Ranney Teacher.

Tuttle & Co., Printers, Rutland, Vt.

Semi-Monthly Report of

May V Parmenter

for Summer Term, 1881

Half Month.	Deportment.	Absences.	Tardies.	STUDIES.		PARENT'S SIGNATURE.
				Geography	Arithmetic	Parents and Guardians are requested to examine and sign this report, and return it the next morning the school opens.
1st.	10	0	1	8	8	G. A Parmenter
2d.	10	1	1	8	10	G. A Parmenter
3d.	10	0	0	10	8	G. A Parmenter
4th.	10	0	0	10	10	H. D Parmenter
5th.	10	0	0	10	8	Lue Parmenter
6th.	8	1	0	8	10	H. D Parmenter
7th.	10	0	0	10	10	

☞ Standard of scholarship and deportment is: 10, perfect; 8, good; 6, passable; 5, very poor; 0, failure.

☞ Parents and guardians are requested to co-operate with the teacher in maintaining good order, punctuality in attendance, promptness in lessons and earnestness in study.

Gilphie E Ranney Teacher.

Tuttle & Co., Printers, Rutland, Vt.

SCHOLARS IN PITTSFIELD, VERMONT IN 1823

SOUTH DISTRICT	
Daniel Bow, Jr.	1
D. Daly	2
J. Smith	2
D. Warren	4
C. Hathaway	4
A. Gains	3
B. Warren	1
T. Lincoln	3
J. Atwood	4
D. Ballard	1
T. Willicot	1
E. Warren	1
R. Holland	2
D. Bow	1
N.W. Townsend	6
Marshal Estabrook	1

NORTHWEST DISTRICT	
James Davis	3
Betsy Durkee	1
Peter Keyes	1
Joshua Wheeler	2
Portius Fuller	2
John Daye	1
John Snow	3
Joshua Hatch	1
Moses Ellis	5
Walter Parmenter	3
William Blossom	2

SOUTH MIDDLE DISTRICT	
Jonas Stone	2
Warner Durkee	3
Elisha Holt	4
James Goodrich	3
Oliver Gleason	4
H. Ellis	2
Cephas White	3
Anson Davis	3
Seth Gibbs	1
John Dinsmore	2
Ira Sylvester	1
John Brown	5
Ira Parsons	1
Martin Parmenter	1
Timothy Sargents	4
Zeb. Bugbee	2
Erastus Holt	5
Artemas Hayden	4
Abel Campbell	5
Iziah Parmenter	4
Mrs. Holden	1
Stephen Holt, Jr.	6
Josiah Holt	1
Harry Sargent	1

NORTH DISTRICT	
N. Rust	3
Samuel Joyslin	2
J. Jewett, Jr.	2
H. Lealand	3
Calvin Briggs	1
John Whitney	2

UNION SCHOOL

EXHIBITION,

PITTSFIELD, FRIDAY EVE., MARCH 7, 1856.

GEO. P. BEARD, Manager.

MUSIC.

PRAYER.

MUSIC.

1. SALUTATORY. — HORACE G. LONG.
2. Declamation. — JULIUS MCCELLOM.
3. Female Education,—(Original.) — Miss ARMINDA V. CADY.
   - Mathematics, — Miss Lucia A. Ranney.
   - Romance, — Miss Elanor R. Ranney.
   - History, — Miss Genaldine Ranney.
   - Music, — Miss Loriette Preston.
   - Poetry, — Miss Lydia M. Townsend.
   - Nature, — Miss Emeline Swan.
   - Drawing and Painting, — Miss Helen C. Preston.
   - Dancing, — ~~Miss Rebecca H. Preston.~~
   - Domestic Affairs, — Miss Ellen Ellis.
4. Declamation. — JOHN M. BROWN.

MUSIC.

5. JUVENILE DEPARTMENT.
6. Police Court.
   - Magistrate, — Albert Vose.
   - Policeman, — Benjamin Downing.
   - O'Niel, — Hiram A. Vose.
7. COLLOQUY—Country Cousin—(Original.)
   - Mr. Howard, — Rufus Holt.
   - Miss Emily Howard, — Arminda V. Cady.
   - Miss Louisa Dalton, — Hannah Estabrook.
   - Sir Edward Percy, — Horace G. Long.
   - Misses Wharton, — Mrs. Sarah H. Beard. / Miss Loriette Preston.
   - Mr. Courtlandt, — Loren Beard.
   - Waiting Maid, — Elizabeth Holt.

MUSIC.

8. Declamation. — JAMES D. PARMENTER.
9. COLLOQUY—(Original)—Fugitive Slave,
   - Mr. & Mrs. Smith, — Mr. & Mrs. Loren Beard.
   - Mr. & Mrs. Porter. — Mr. & Mrs. Daniel W. Ranney.
   - Sambo, — Darius Ranney.
   - Harry, — Stephen H. Preston.
   - Col. Burleigh, — Orvis G. Blossom.
   - McDonald, — Horace G. Long.
   - Esquire Moore, — Hiram A. Vose.
10. Declamation — JASPER PINNEY.

MUSIC.

11. Four Wishes. — Emily H. Beard. / Francese Baker. / Rebecca H. Preston. / Helen C. Preston.

12. Bachelors Association. — Pres't of Association, Albert Vose.

13. Song.

14. Village Squire.
"Squire Wiggins," — Loren Beard.
Eggerston, a Lawyer, — James D. Parmenter.
Jonathan, — Darius Ranney.
Millwood, — Horace G. Long.

MUSIC.

15. Declamation. — Boman W. Patten.

16. "Woman's Rights" Convention.—(Original.)

1st Scene.

Gentleman at Home, — Jasper Pinney.
Neighbor, — Orvis G. Blossom.

2d Scene.

Convention Pres't, — Arminda V. Cady.
Secretary, — Mrs. Sarah H. Beard.
(Speeches by Members of Convention.)

3d Scene.

Mr. Parker at Home, — Loren Beard.
Family, Neighbors, &c.

17. Gridiron.
Captain, — Albert Vose.
Patrick, — Hiram A. Vose.
Frenchman, — Loren Beard.

18. The Lay of a Mad Man. — Wm. A. Blossom.

MUSIC.

19. Colloquy—Precocious Speller. — Romain G. Eggleston. / John Preston.

20. Declamation. — Orvis G. Blossom.

MUSIC.

21. Beauty of Piety.
Priestess of Nature. — Genaldine Ranney.
Flora. — Mrs. Elanor R. Ranney.
Terrestria. — Helen C. Preston.
Aeria. — Lydia M. Townsend.
Meteoria and Celestia. — Francese Baker. / Lorietta Preston. / Emily H. Beard. / Rebecca H. Preston.
Psyche. — Mrs. Sarah H. Beard.
Christana. — Emeline Swan.

22. Colloquy—Scraping Acquaintance.
Missourian, — Hiram A. Vose.
Traveller, — Loren Beard.

23. New England, (Original Poem,) — Geo. P. Beard.

24. Original Hymn.

BENEDICTION.

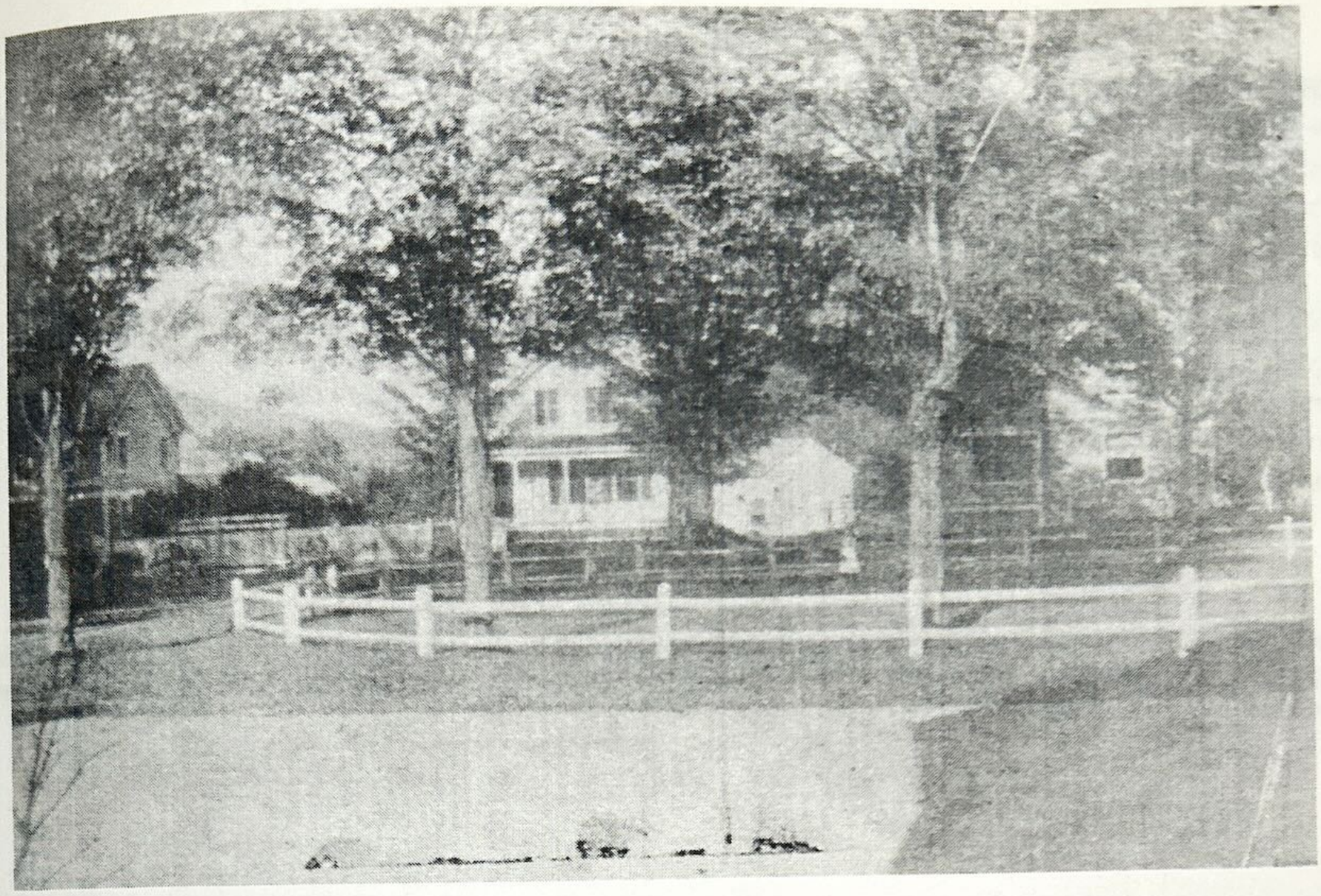
HIGH SCHOOL

It has been reported that Pittsfield once had a high school, but it is not certain for how long it remained in existence. It opened its doors on Monday August 27, 1855 for an eleven week term. The courses taught were Common English, Higher, English, Latin, Greek, French, German and Instrumental Music.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Looking north on the common showing fence in front of cemetery

Looking south on the common



View of the Park

West side of the Park.

CEMETERY

In 1798 Capt. Goodrich gave two and one half acres for a burying ground or public buildings. This is where the cemetery now stands. Daniel Bowe Jr, who was living at the tavern (now Earl Cook's), and the town erected a fence around the cemetery in 1831. It was voted to sell the use of the burying ground to the highest bidder in 1840 with the following restrictions: "only calves and sheep may graze there, no bucks, not to be plowed and must be kept well-fenced." The bid went to Asa Gains Jr. at four dollars per year for five years.

Probably the first death to occur in town was that of Daniel, son of Daniel and Molly Bowe June 10, 1788—3 years. There is a stone to his memory in the cemetery.

The first recorded death—Selah D. son of Joseph and Delia Safford February 22, 1795.

The first recorded marriage—David Daley and Martha Call August 29, 1792.

The first recorded birth—Triphena daughter of Thomas and Tryphena Hodgkins July 22, 1788.

It might be well to note here that a list of all the people buried in the cemetery with their names and dates along with a copy of the censuses 1790-1880 has been placed in the Town Clerk's office for those wishing more detailed information or doing research.

THE PARK

In 1819 the people of Pittsfield voted to accept James Goodrich's offer of land to be used for a common. However, this piece which now constitutes thesouthernsection of the park, was not deeded until the following year. The northern section was not added until 1835 when James Goodrich and Daniel Bowe signed it over to the town. Years later Dr. Charles Brigham, at a cost of six hundred dollars, built a public cistern located in the park.

For many years the park, as well as the cemetery, was surrounded by a fence, conforming to the condition imposed by the gift from James Goodrich and Daniel Bowe. In the early 1900's the park was the scene, from late spring to early fall, of croquet tournaments, baseball games, tennis matches, lawn parties and church fairs and suppers, held under the shade of the evenly-spaced maple trees, planted by interested townfolks, and the giant elm, the sapling which William Blossom had persuaded Mr. Goodrich to "let stand" a century earlier. Disease has caused the loss of many of these trees, and but a few years ago it was felt that the old landmark elm. (illustrated on Scott's 1853 map) too, must be removed.

MAIL SERVICE

Before Pittsfield had a postmaster the early residents took turns going to Rutland for the mail. Then in 1824 Daniel Bowe Jr. was named as Pittsfield's first postmaster, a position he maintained for seventeen years. Although it has been written that his office was at the old Bowe Tavern at the junction of Route #100 and Tozier Hill Road, it was actually at Earl Cook's which at the time was owned by Bowe and called Bowe's Tavern, also.

In 1826 Bowe received seven dollars for his annual wage, the rate of pay being thirty per cent of the first one hundred dollars worth of business and twenty-five per cent of the next four hundred.

Child's WINDSOR COUNTY GAZETTEER lists the Mail Route from Bethel, "via Gaysville, Stockbridge, Pittsfield, North Sherburne, and Chittenden to Rutland in 1884 - a distance of 33½ miles and back daily, by William Tinkham and Son. "With headquarters, apparently in Stockbridge, one stage left Stockbridge for Bethel at 8 a.m. returning at 6 p.m.; another left Stockbridge for Rutland at 6 a.m. returning at 9 p.m. It was noted that express packages and telegrams should be sent via Bethel.

LIST OF POSTAL RATES IN 1824

For any distance under 30 miles----------	6c
Over 30 and under 80 miles----------	10c
Over 80 and under 150 miles----------	12½c
Over 150 and under 400 miles----------	18½c
Over 400 miles----------	25c

POSTMASTERS OF PITTSFIELD

Daniel Bowe 1824-1841
Asa Gains 1841-1850
Alanson Beard 1850-1855
J.Q.A. Bass 1855-1857
George McCollum 1857-1861
Ira Beard 1861-1868
T.C. Hubbard 1868-1874
Ira Holt Jr. 1874-1881
C.B. George 1881-1886
A.F. Guernsey 1886-1890
Frank Durkee 1890-1894
A.F. Guernsey 1894-1899
C. Sargent 1899-1903
Mrs. Ida Durkee 1903-1904
C.B. George1904-1908
Miss A.W.Whitcomb 1908-1918
Alice M. Allen 1918-1921
A.E. Spaulding 1921-1927
C.B. Morrill Townsend 1927-1957
Wm. Martin acting Postmaster 1957-1958
Elizabeth Rooney 1958-1968
E.E. Martin 1968-

STAGE DRIVERS

This list was taken from Mrs. Madeline Fleming's Informal History of Sherburne, Vermont.

1900 Harry Davis
1903-05 Otis Hunt
1906-1913 Frank Bishop
1914 Ray Colton
1915 Mike Wardwell and son Jim
1915-16 Clyde Sumner
1917 Alstine Rorison
1919-1921 Charles Seward
1923 Frank Morgan
1923-1927 Earl Davis

STORES

STORES

Asa Gains kept the first store in town from 1812-1817, most likely at Giorgetti's, but possibly at the old Congregational parsonage now owned by Selden Taylor.

John Gould of Rutland came next in 1816 and traded across the stream from the present Giorgetti residence. Possibly he took over the Gains store. During his brief stay here he was tried on charges of perjury, but was acquitted.

June and Hayden opened a store in 1831 in Mill Village (Benjamin Lewis, 1853), but later the same year sold it to Spaulding & Hodges. By 1833 Spaulding & Hodges had built a new sawmill, and maintained the store and ashery which had been built north of the Mill Dam in 1831.

Elisha Holt's Tavern became a store by 1835, under the ownership of Justin Morgan and E.D. Briggs. Later owners were Aaron A. Colton on (1841) Seth Lewis (1868-70) and from 1883 to 1894 John Rockwell, who had converted the building to a residence, and lived there when the house burned in 1903. This store stood between the Methodist Church and the Vose House, and burned at the same time as the Vose House.

From 1844 to 1862 Lucius Preston kept a store in what later became the Green Mountain House.

From 1848 to 1853 Gay and Beard ran the combined store and Post Office located on the site of the present firehouse; Bass & Flint on the 1853 map; Ira Beard 1856-1867; and T.C. Hubbard is shown on the 1869 map. In 1881 it became what the older residents knew as Frank Durkee's store. After his death this was converted to a dwelling house which burned in 1938. Prior to 1881 Mr. Durkee had leased for a store and residence, from Albert and Elizabeth Vose, the hotel, they reserving certain rooms for living quarters. The terms were $400 for 5 years. During this period there was no hotel here.

C.B. George built the house and store in 1881, presently known as Powers Store.

On March 1, 1884, William Davis deeded to Amos Ellis the land on which Ellis' Meat Market was standing, just south of the present Cleone Townsend house. It is our opinion that the building used as a meat market may have been the schoolhouse moved to that site when the new one was built in the summer of 1883. Later operators of this store were Frank Davis, Carlos Spaulding and Mrs. Freeman. After having been converted to a dwelling house, this building met the fate of so many others, having burned in the early 1900's.

About 1893 Fred Morrill opened up a store above his Blacksmith Shop, and a few years later built a new one just north of the Shop.

At the beginning of the century grocery stores were operated by C.B. George, Frank Durkee, across the street, and Fred Morrill in the Hollow; C.W. Brigham sold drugs in the building just north of the Vose House, and Ella Wilson and Gertie Ellis had millinery shops. In 1901 Mr. Brigham leased his drug business to C.E. Noyes.

When lightning caused fire in 1903, which destroyed the C.E. Noyes store, the adjacent Vose House and two houses to the south, one of which was occupied by H.H. Hovey and his wife's parents, the other, as has been mentioned, by John Rockwell, a blind man, Mr. Hovey purchased the C.B. George property. A bit later Mr. Brigham bought the Cheese factory building and moved it to the site of his old drug store, where his son George ran a grocery store. Mr. Durkee died in 1908, and for some time, three stores satisfied the needs of the town.

A.E. Spaulding, a licensed undertaker, bought the Brigham store about 1915 and did a thriving business in both lines, as long as the lumber activities lasted, but 1927 brought changes: the flood, the final gasp of the local lumber activity, with the resulting emigration from town, and, the beginning of more general ownership of automobiles, which meant easier travel to chain stores in nearby towns. Ill health had forced Mr. Hovey to close, and even two stores were not practical. F.H. Morrill & Co. vacated their store in the Hollow and bought from Mr. Spaulding, where they operated, till some time in the 1950's, both store and Post Office. Except for a small store run by Maud Stoddard in one section of her husband's Blacksmith Shop, Morrill's was almost the only store in town, until the arrival of N.M. Power about 1936. Having purchased the vacant Hovey property, Mr. Power ran his grocery business for more than 30 years until his death. The business was then taken over by his son John (Jack), who completely modernized the building, with a larger self-service store serving not only the local trade, but catering, also, to the needs of skiers en route to the slopes nearby.

TELEPHONE

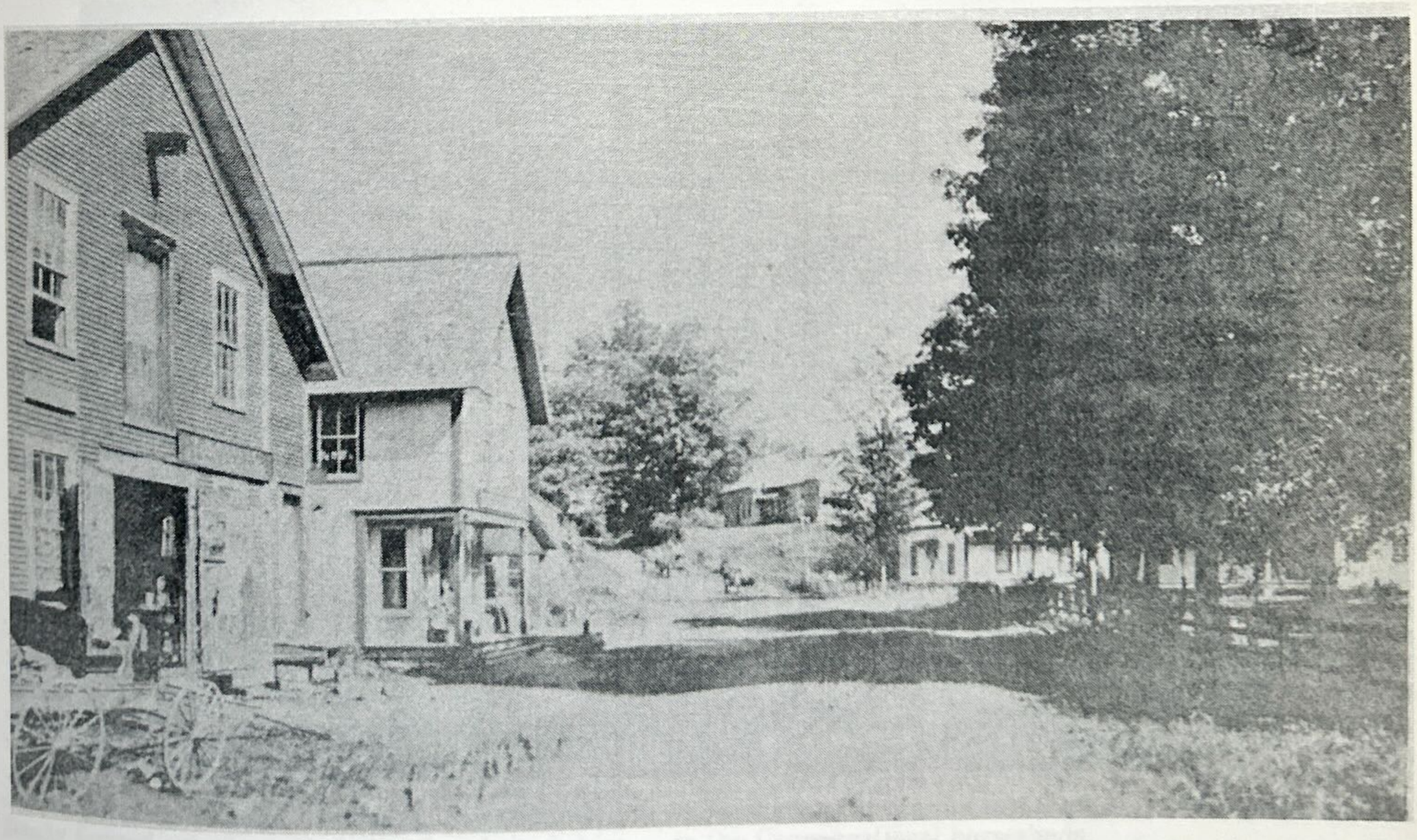
In 1883, mainly through the efforts of Dr. C.W. Brigham and Frank Durkee we became on speaking terms with Rochester, Stockbridge, Gaysville and Bethel. A July 12 news item stated: "On the 7th the line was completed and has been in hourly use since".

Pittsfield was later served by the Peoples Telephone Co, and the White River Valley Telephone Co., but today these two lines have been absorbed by the New England Telephone Co.

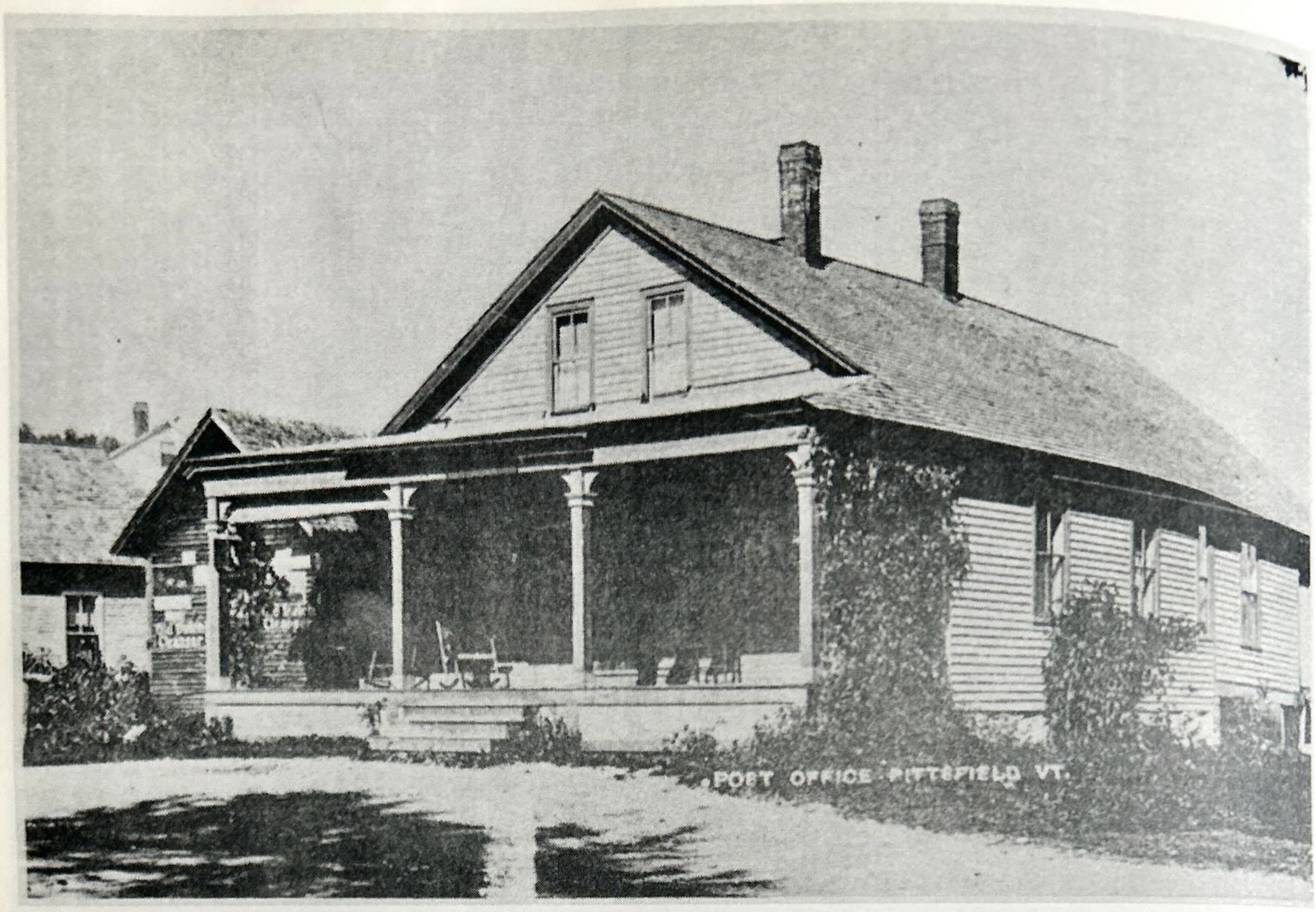
Our present dial system, a far cry from the earlier type, brought marked changes in our daily lives. Prior to the advent of radio, and later TV, "listening in" on party lines had been for some, the only break in an otherwise humdrum existence. But the greatest change was the loss of the personal relationship with our friendly "central", who was on call, day and night, if needed. Two, who will long be remembered. were May Rorison and Nettie Knapp.

For a number of years after 1883 there were only three telephones in Pittsfield; at Frank Durkee's; Dr. C.W. Brigham's and at Fred Morrill's store.

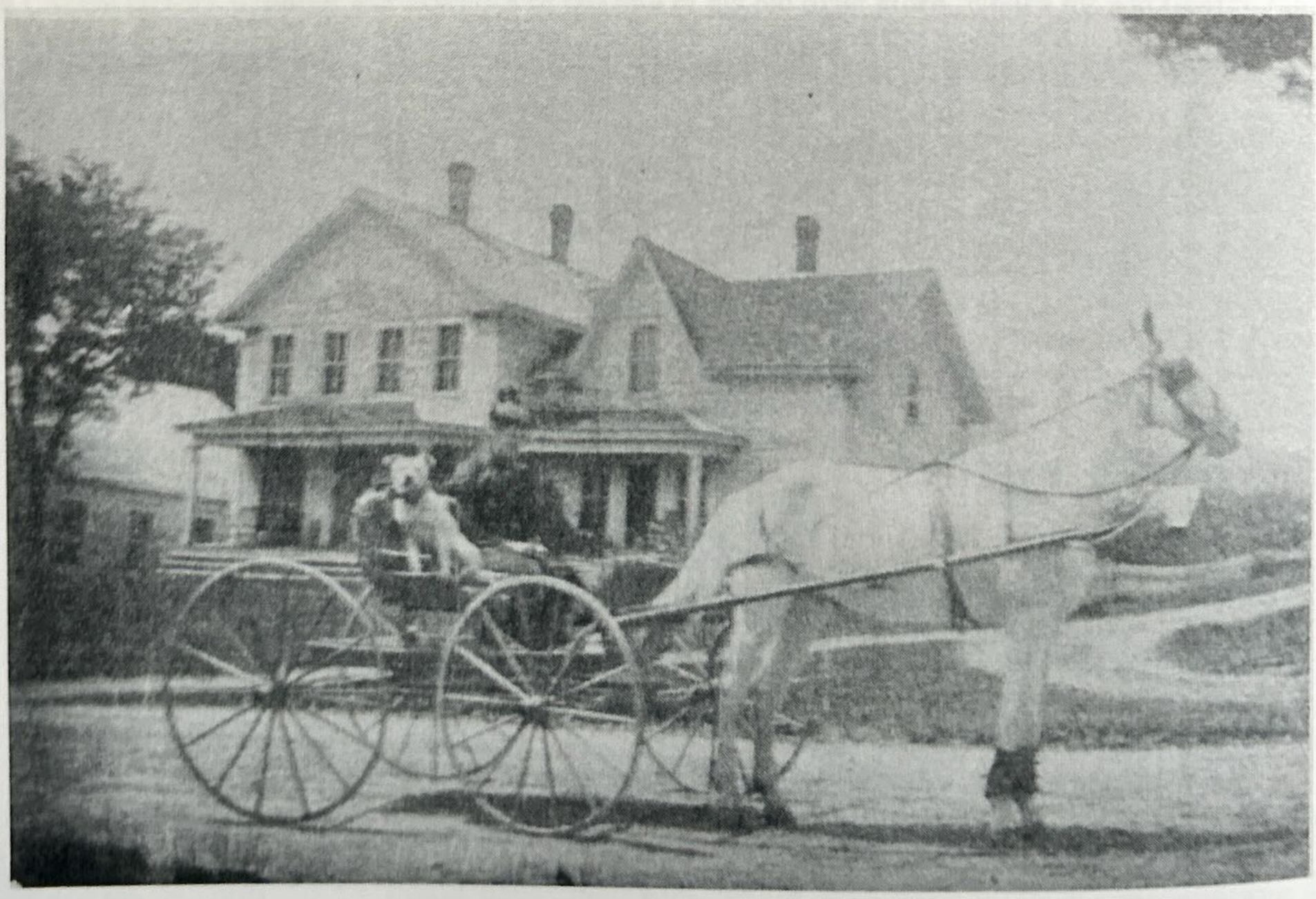
F. H. Morrill Store in the hollow.



View of the hollow looking north showing the blacksmith shop and Morrill's Store on the left.



Frank Durkee Store - on site of present Fire House.



The present Powers' Store.

Making rounds in the cutter

Dr. Fred Brigham and Charles Allen, the driver.

C W Brigham M.D

PHYSICIANS

The earliest physician in town was Dr. Benjamin Tucker who arrived about 1793, but did not remain long. The town was without a doctor for some years until Josiah Phelps came here about 1823 from Connecticut. Levi Rix was the next doctor from 1830 to 1841 and he was followed by several others until 1850 when E.F. Upham set up practice here. About the year 1859 an epidemic of smallpox erupted and Dr. Upham mistakenly diagnosed it as something else. It was at that time that Dr. Charles Brigham was summoned to Pittsfield from Barnard. He became one of the town's most influential citizens, remaining as physician until his retirement in 1896. His son Frederick, who had been associated with his father, then took over the practice. In later years the following physicians were in Pittsfield: Dr. F.A. Edmunds, Dr. Will Chamberlain and Dr. McBride whose eight year old son told Cleone Townsend that he had finally figured out where his father found the babies — in the Congregational horsesheds.

From time to time Pittsfield was served by botanic physicians or herbalists. One of these was Elijah C. Lamb who practiced here 1848-1853.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS!!!

Here is a list of prices which you might like to compare with today's. Note that between 1818 and 1820 the monetary exchange passed from pounds and shillings to dollars and cents.

Prices taken from David Daley's account books 1807-1839.

His price for making a pair of boots was 24/0, shoes for a child were 3/6 and for a woman were 6/0.

Taken from George McCollum's account book 1834/5.

He made a coffin for Stephen Holt's mother for $2.50 — for a child it was $1.25. It might be added here that George McCollum was voted to have charge of the hearse house located near Bob Colton's in 1858.

At Spaulding and Hodges store he bought the following: pint of paint at 25c, three bushels of ashes for 37c, two and one-half dozen eggs for 25c, forty-five pounds of sugar for $4.50, eight oranges for 12c, two pounds of coffee for 32c, and one quart of molasses at 29c.

The fare at Fuller's Tavern (now Sno-bird Lodge) was as follows in 1820/1: one-half a mug of flip 13c, two pints gin 25c, one gill of rum 8c.

The Rutland-Stockbridge Turnpike Company in 1830 paid James Eggleston 78c for shoeing horses.

In 1826 Daniel Ranney sold potatoes to many residents at 25c a bushel. At the same time maple sugar ranged from 10c-12c a pound.

Daniel Bowe's estate inventory lists a swarm of bees valued at $2.25.

Joseph Lamb's entire funeral expenses were $3.75 in 1823. Horace Ellis dug the grave for $1.50 and Asa Gains made the casket for $2.25.

March 3, 1881. The town is out of debt and has quite an amount in the treasury, so the tax is only 30 cents on the dollar, or 40c, if not paid before Nov. 1. Total expense of the year was something over $800; of this $382 was for support of the poor. The town voted to buy a new hearse, and to buy the remaining volumes of Miss Hemenway's *Gazetteer.*

TAVERNS, HOTELS AND HOUSES

TAVERNS

Few of the earliest houses did not serve, at one time or another, as a tavern. Travel, first by foot, later by oxcart, and last by horse-drawn vehicles made numerous stopping places a necessity.

When Daniel Bowe arrived in 1786 he soon built a log cabin which was the first tavern operated in town. However, by 1797 he had erected a large framed dwelling at the junction of Tozier Hill Road and Route 100 which was used for the same purpose for a number of years.

Zebedee Sprout built the next tavern (now Sno-Bird Lodge) circa 1803. After his death in 1810 it was sold to Capt. John Fuller who maintained it as such for at least another ten years.

The present Earl Cook house was in existence by 1799 and as early as 1812 was kept as a tavern by Azubah Davis while her husband, John, was away during the War. By 1817 Daniel Bowe Jr. had bought it and ran it as a tavern stand for a number of years. This stand contained all the land between the cemetery and the Methodist Church and originally included the blacksmith shop which stood at the north end of the cemetery where the school later was built.

By 1819 Elisha Holt ran a tavern in the village. This stood about one hundred feet north of the Methodist Church and was sold to Morgan & Briggs in 1835 and became a store.

The tavern that eventually became the Vose House was built about 1835 by Caleb Sparks. Later owners were Penuel Child, Lyman Gibbs, George Orcutt, and the Voses, Albert, and later his daughter, Nellie. For a few years there was no hotel in town, during which time, beginning April 1879 Albert and Elizabeth Vose leased to Frank Durkee for a store and living quarters, all of the building except certain rooms reserved for their occupancy. The consideration was "$400 for 5 years." After the house burned in 1903 it was replaced by the building which is now occupied by Clifton Merrill.

Sometime between 1830 and 1835 Daniel Bowe, Jr., erected the building that was to become the Green Mountain House. Rufus Holt, about 1870 converted it from a dwelling house to a hotel. Susan Parmenter's diary shows an entry of Jan. 1, 1873: "They have a ball at R. Holt's tonight. (There were 125 couples)". Large barns were built to accommodate travelers, a large hall was built above the barn, used for dances, entertainments, and finally for a Grange Hall. Subsequent owners were Justin Spaulding, James Fletcher and William Sherburne. Later this 26 room building was made into tenements and shops.

In 1925 Earl Davis opened the first Garage in town, using the barn for that purpose, continuing here till house and garage burned in 1936, On the site of the house he built a Service Station, which was also destroyed by fire about 1965. Ron Colton's station is there now.

James Eggleston built the house which is located just south of the Cemetery about 1840. This too served for a time as a tavern.

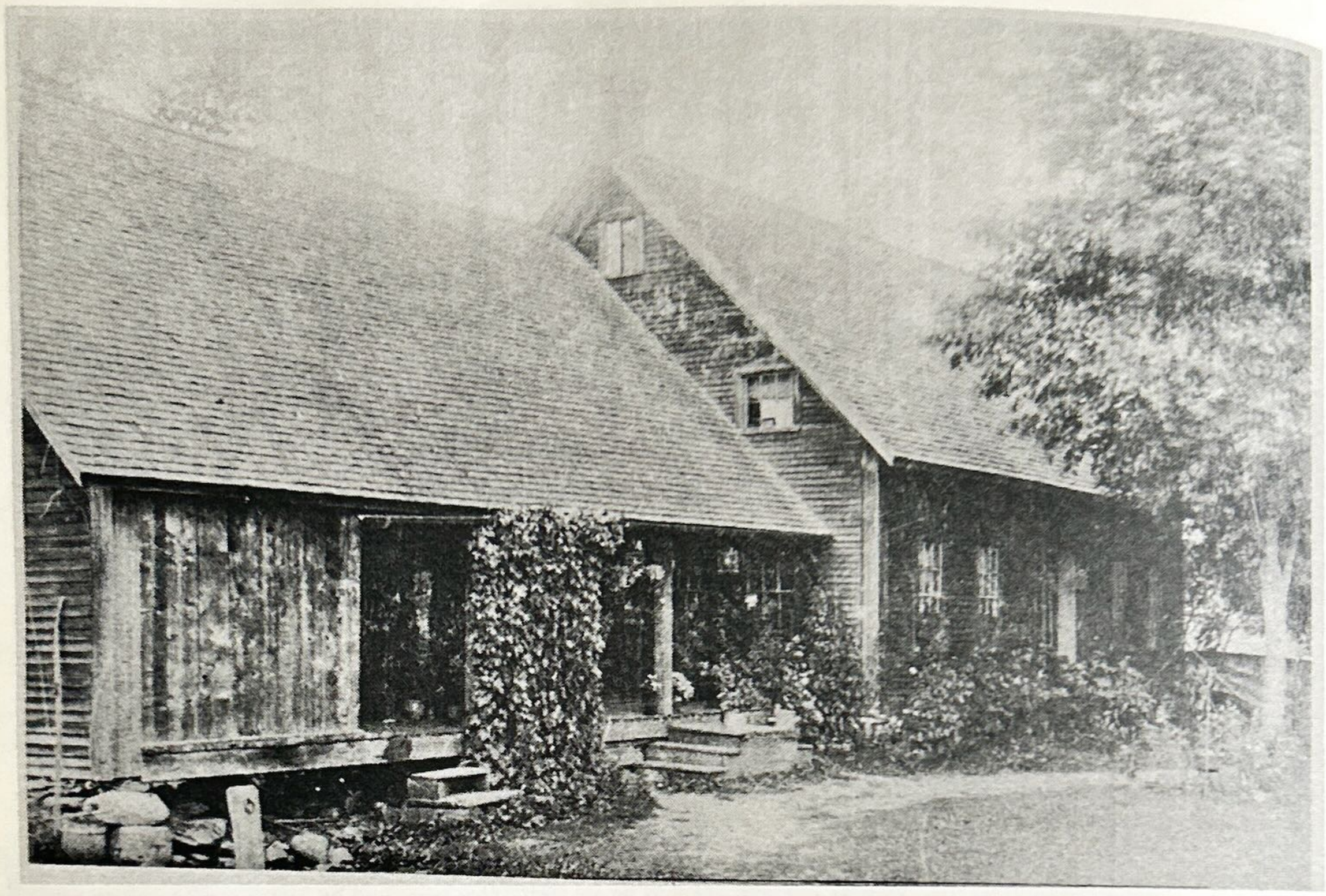
Green Mountain House.

Old Vose House

Ranney Hotel

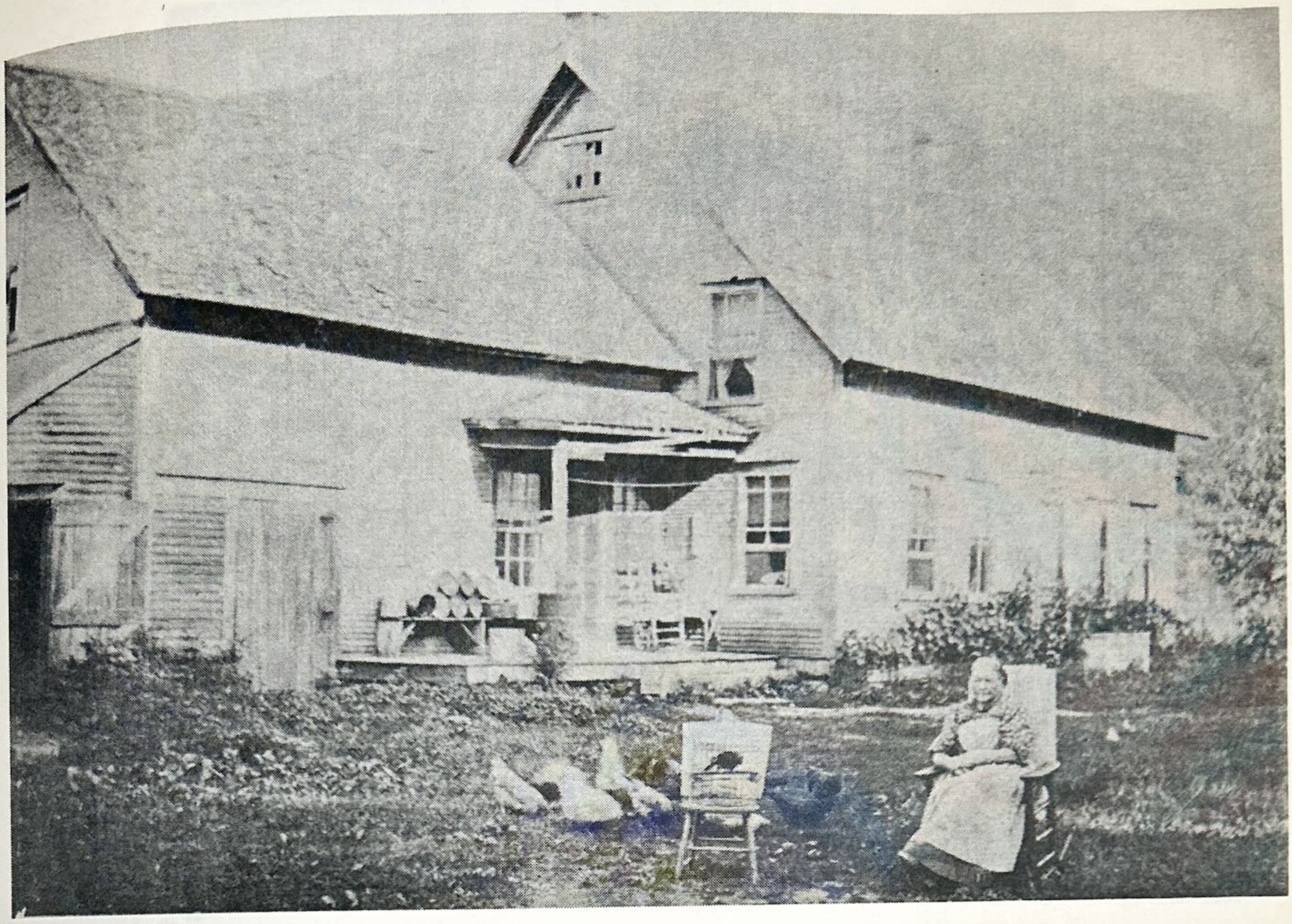
Augustus Pinney home-later a new house was erected on this site now occupied by Mr. Sargent.
1853 - N. Thomas. 1869 - J. A. Pinney.

Known as the old Johnson homestead. 1853 Asa Pinney - 1869 Mrs. Johnson. Has since burned.



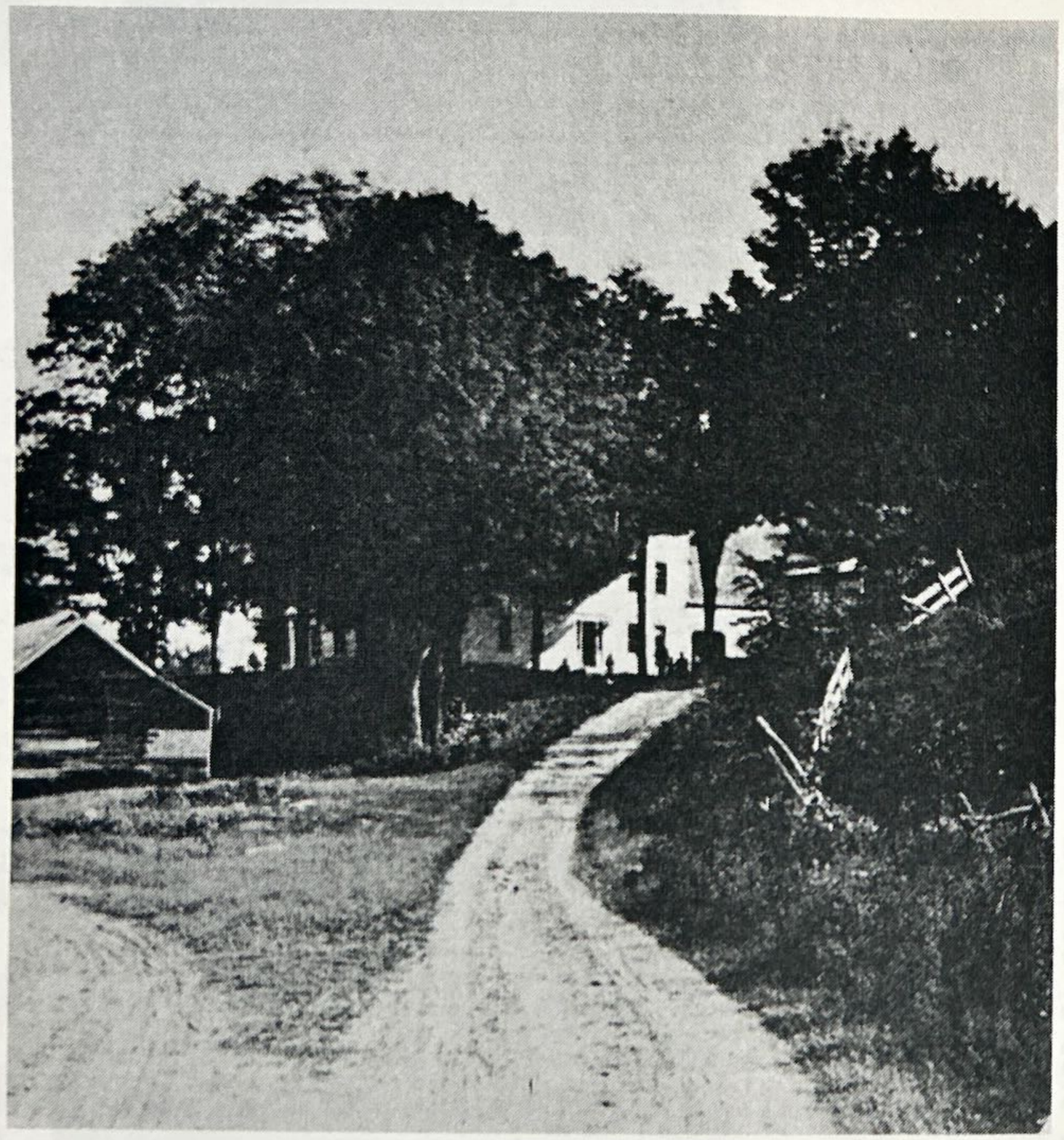
Built circa 1803 by Zebedee Sprout and for many years served as a tavern. 1853 M. Worthen- 1869 L&H Bisop. The home of the Melvin Johnson family. Now Sno Bird Lodge owned by the Tom Painos.

Built circa 1830 by Samuel Richardson. Ezra Edson 1853.
A. Pinney 1869. 1976 a ski lodge.

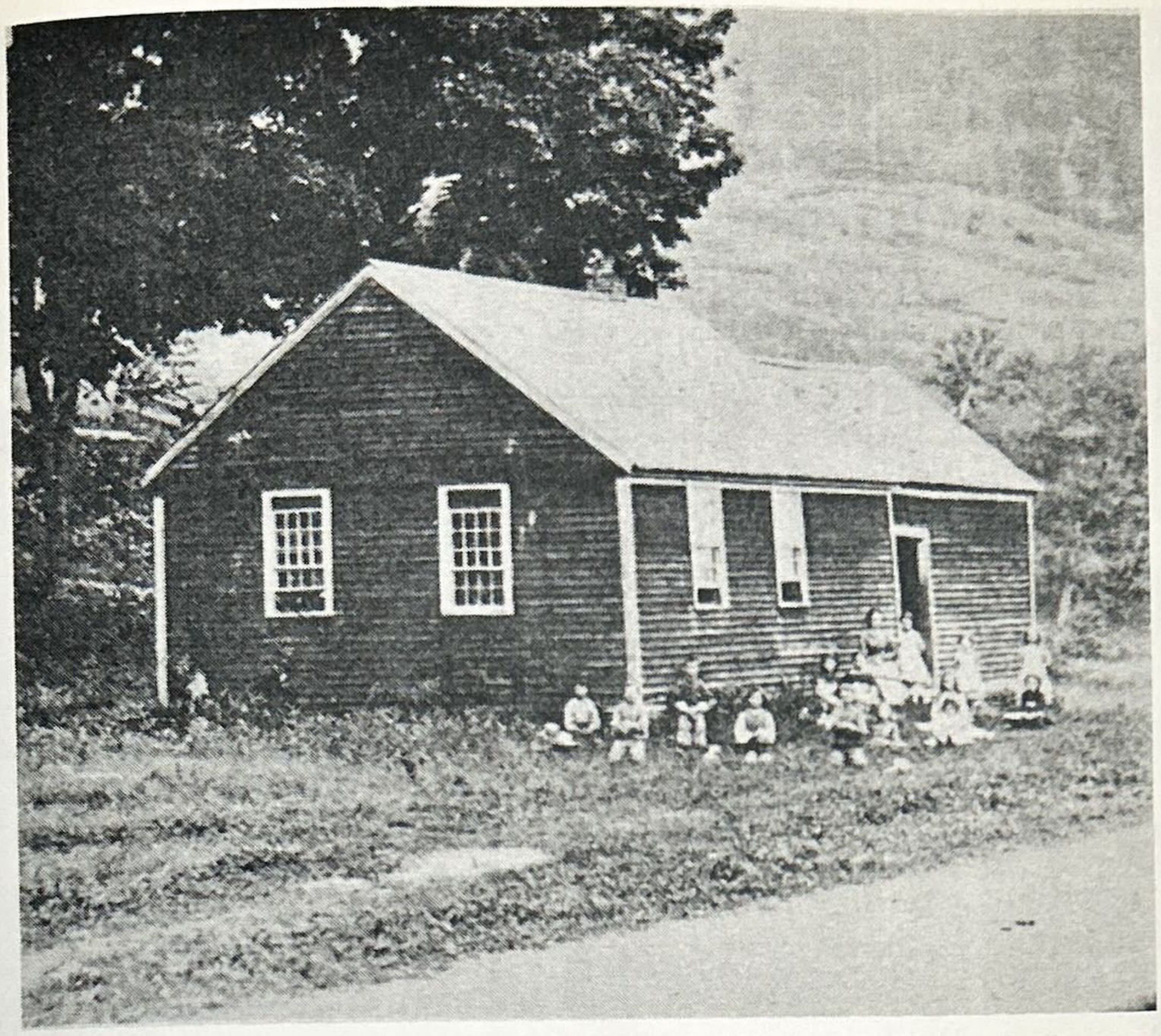


Built circa 1796 by John Gains. The house was later moved across the road from Harvey Hunt's and used for a barn. About 1918 Dr. Archibald Ranney erected a new residence on the property which is now a part of Deer Brook Lodge. 1869-R. Ranney.

Barns on the Gains farm.

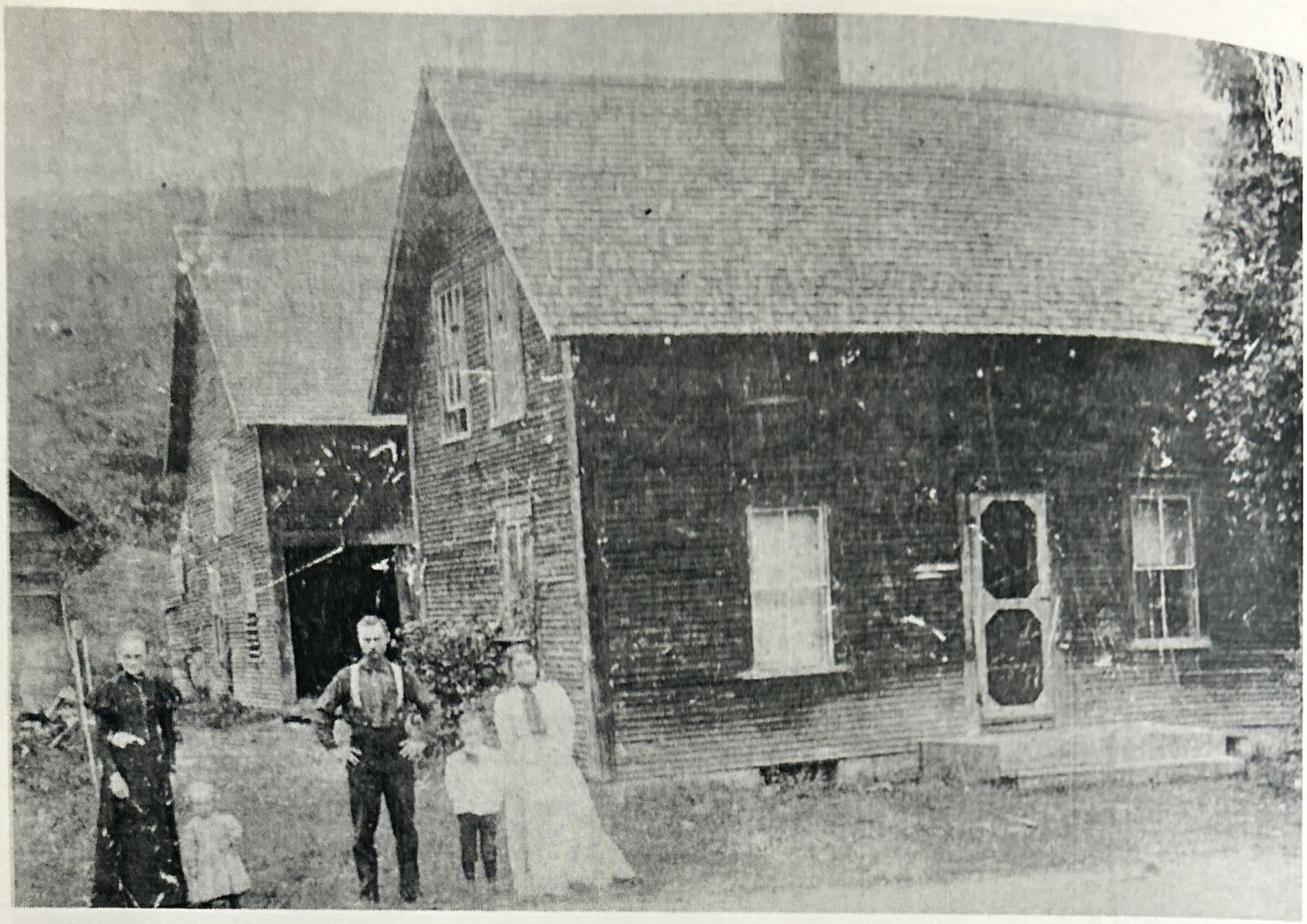


Bowe Tavern and Old South School - located at the foot of the mountain below Townsend Hill just back of Flat Iron Real Estate and Antique Shop 1976. The first tavern in town was a log cabin nearby, but Daniel Bowe built this framed house prior to 1797. 1853 Peleg Bowe - 1869 D. Avery.



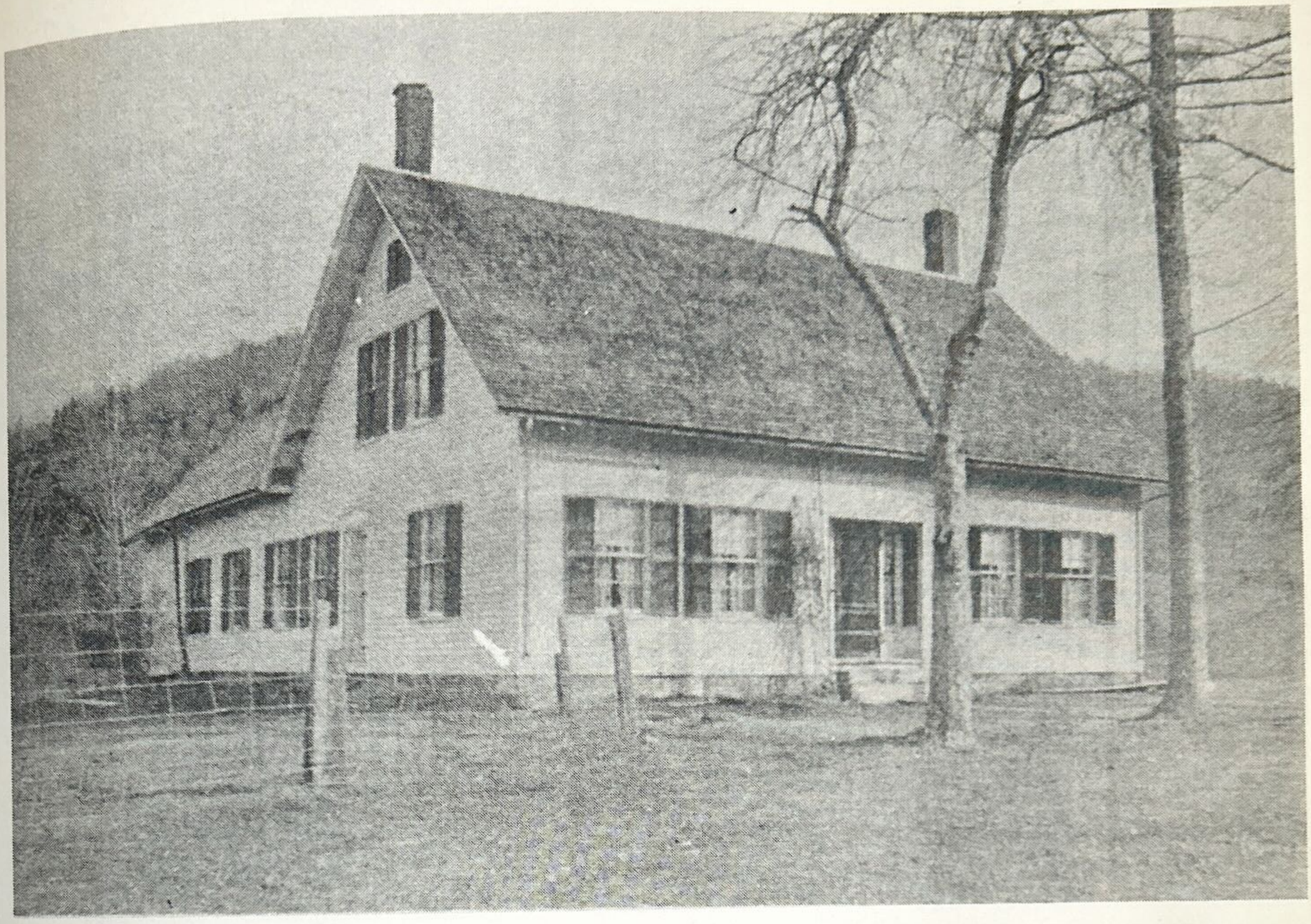
South School - used for a time as a Catholic Chapel and now houses Flat Iron Real Estate and Antique Shop.

Looking north from South School - at right the present Harvey Hunt Estate; 1853 and 1869 owned by the French family.

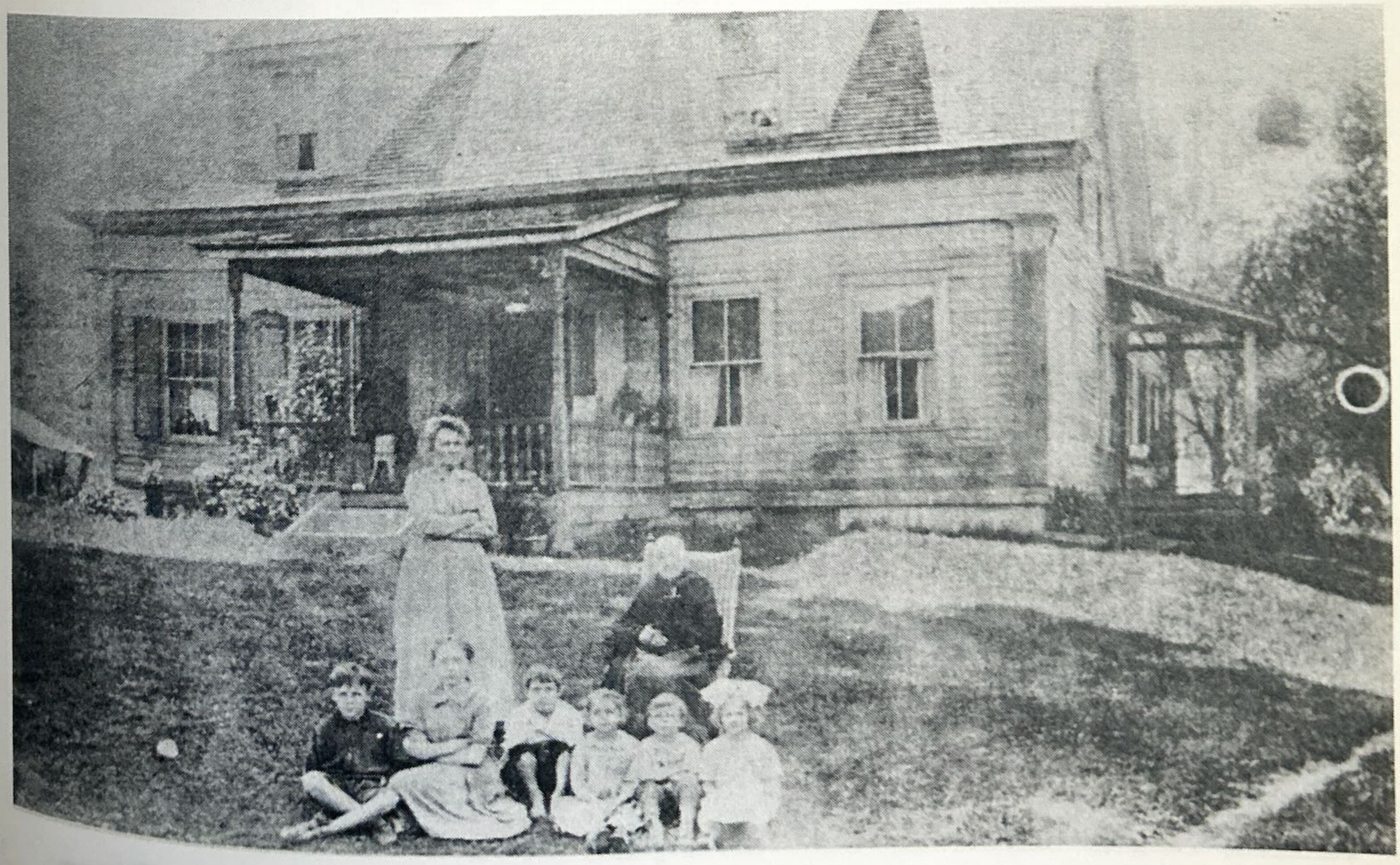


Dave Rorison house located on the west side of Route 100 at junction with Tozier Hill. Burned.

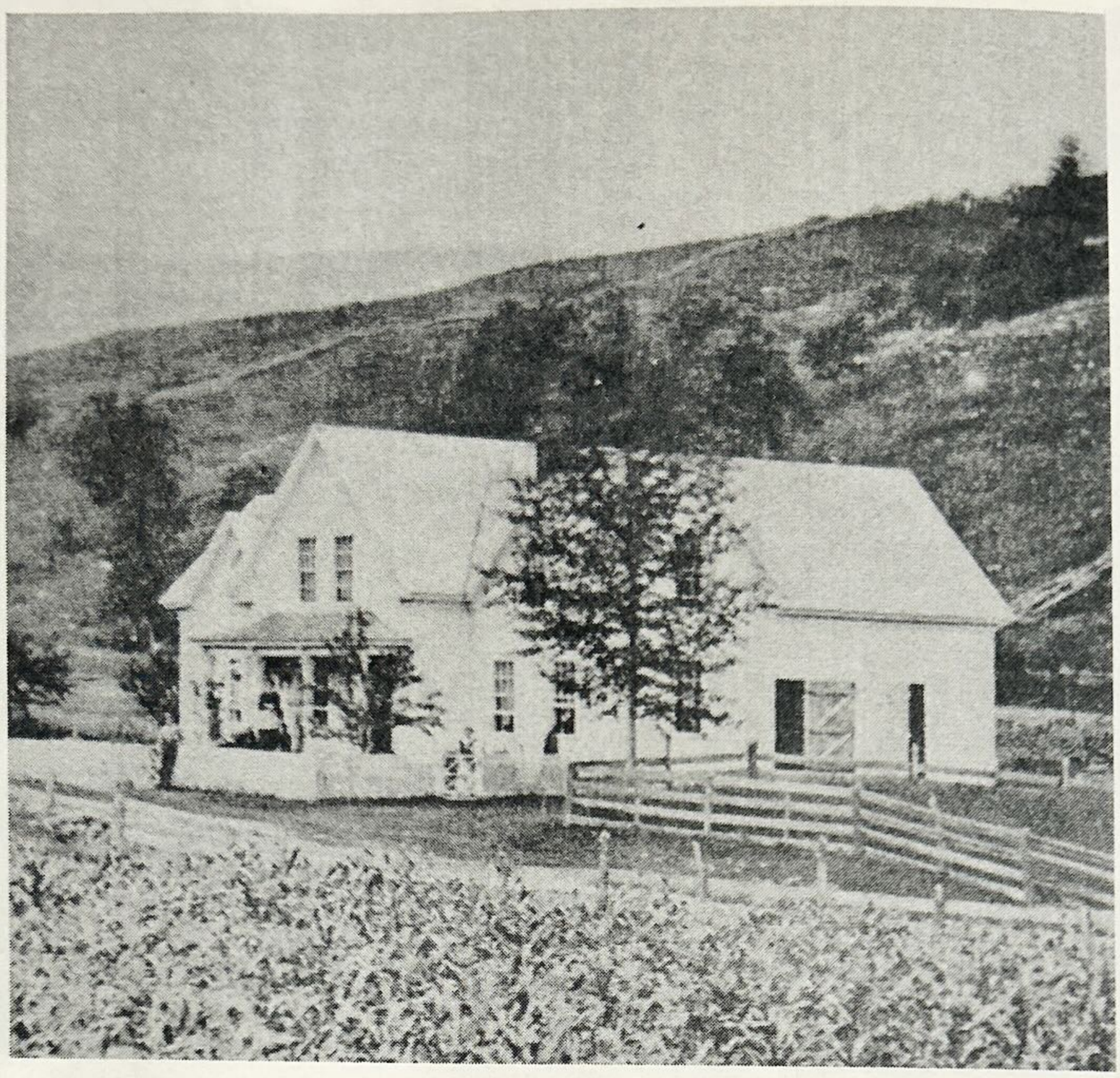
John Brown house off Tozier Hill Road. 1869 Rodney Rice. 1976 camp.



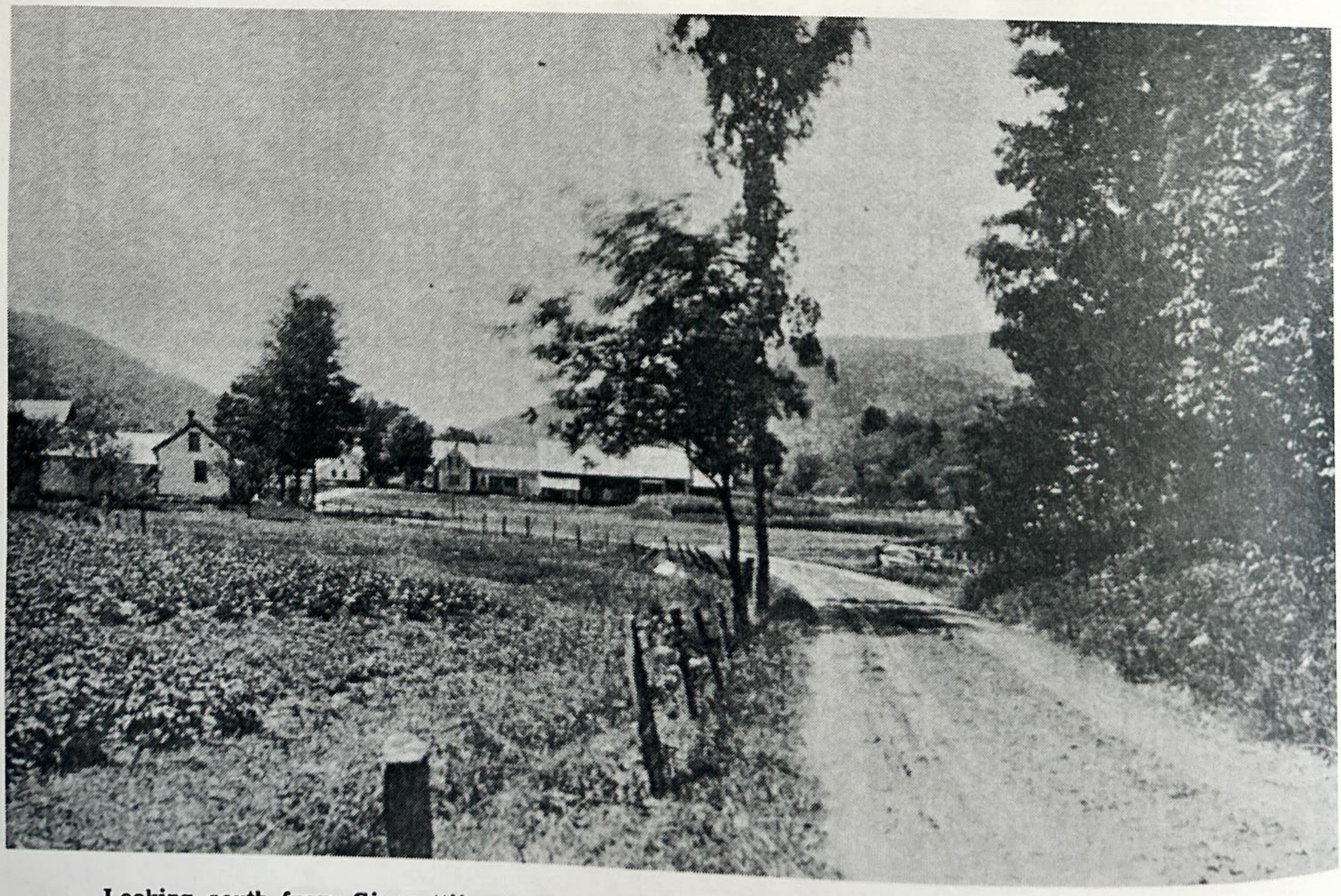
Presently the Harvey Hunt Estate. 1853 Hiram French and 1869 his widow Bethiah.



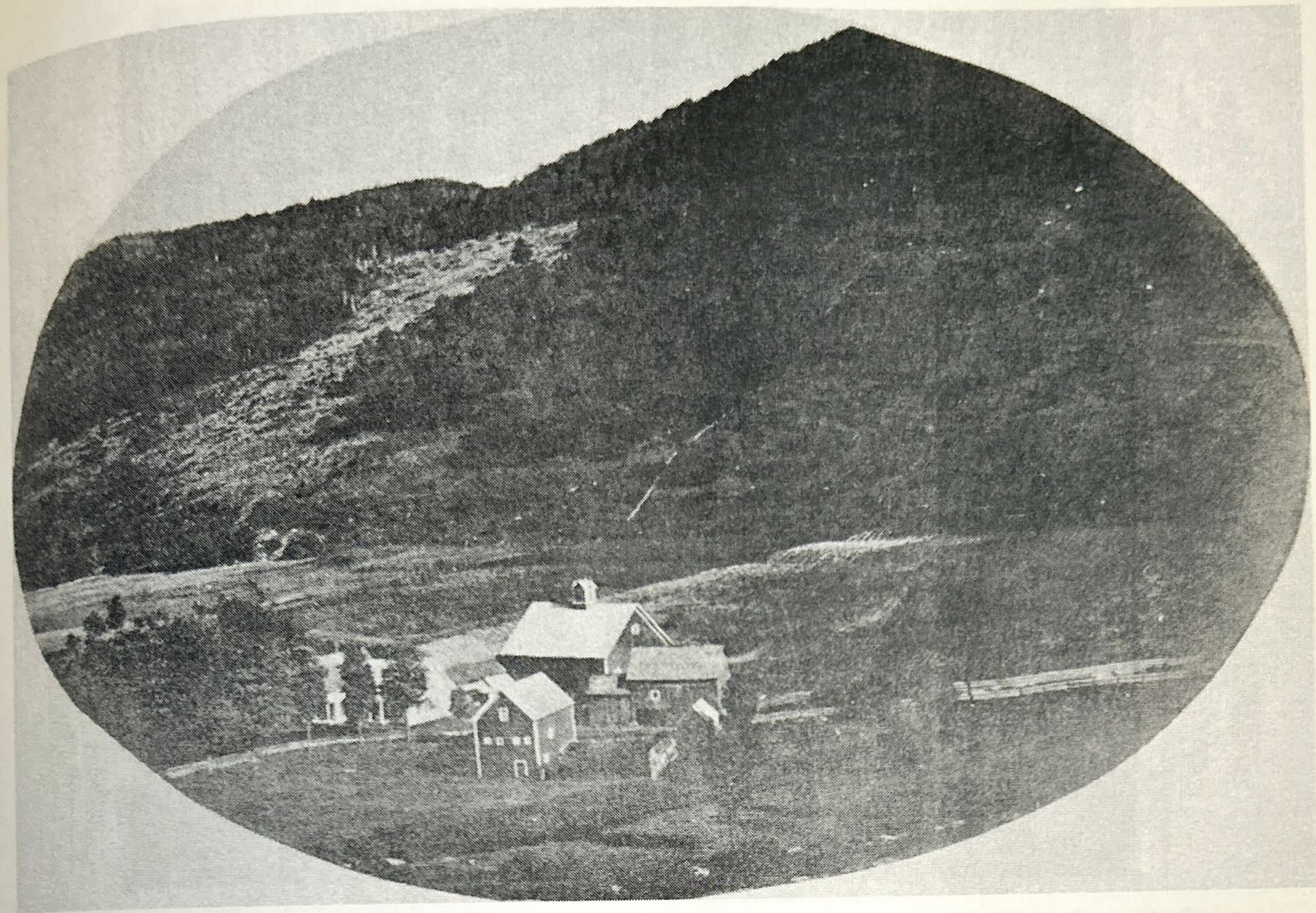
Charles Colton House 1976.; 1853 C. R. Goodrich; I. Holt 1869.



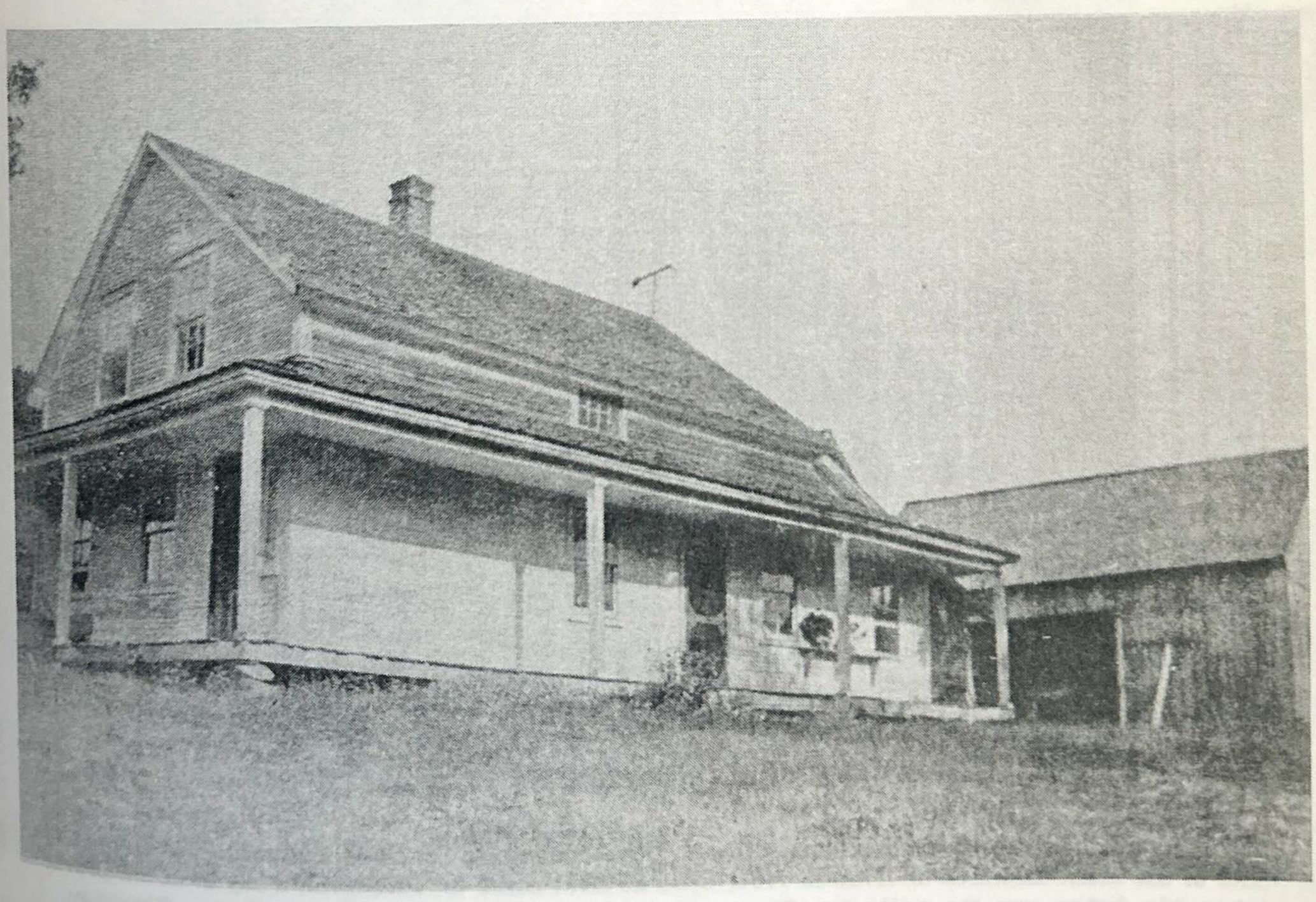
The Patch place 1869. Later owned by Edwin Estabrook . The house burned, but the barns remain and are now a part of the Quattrone property.



Looking south from Giorgetti's showing the present Andrews house on the left and the old Patch place on the right.



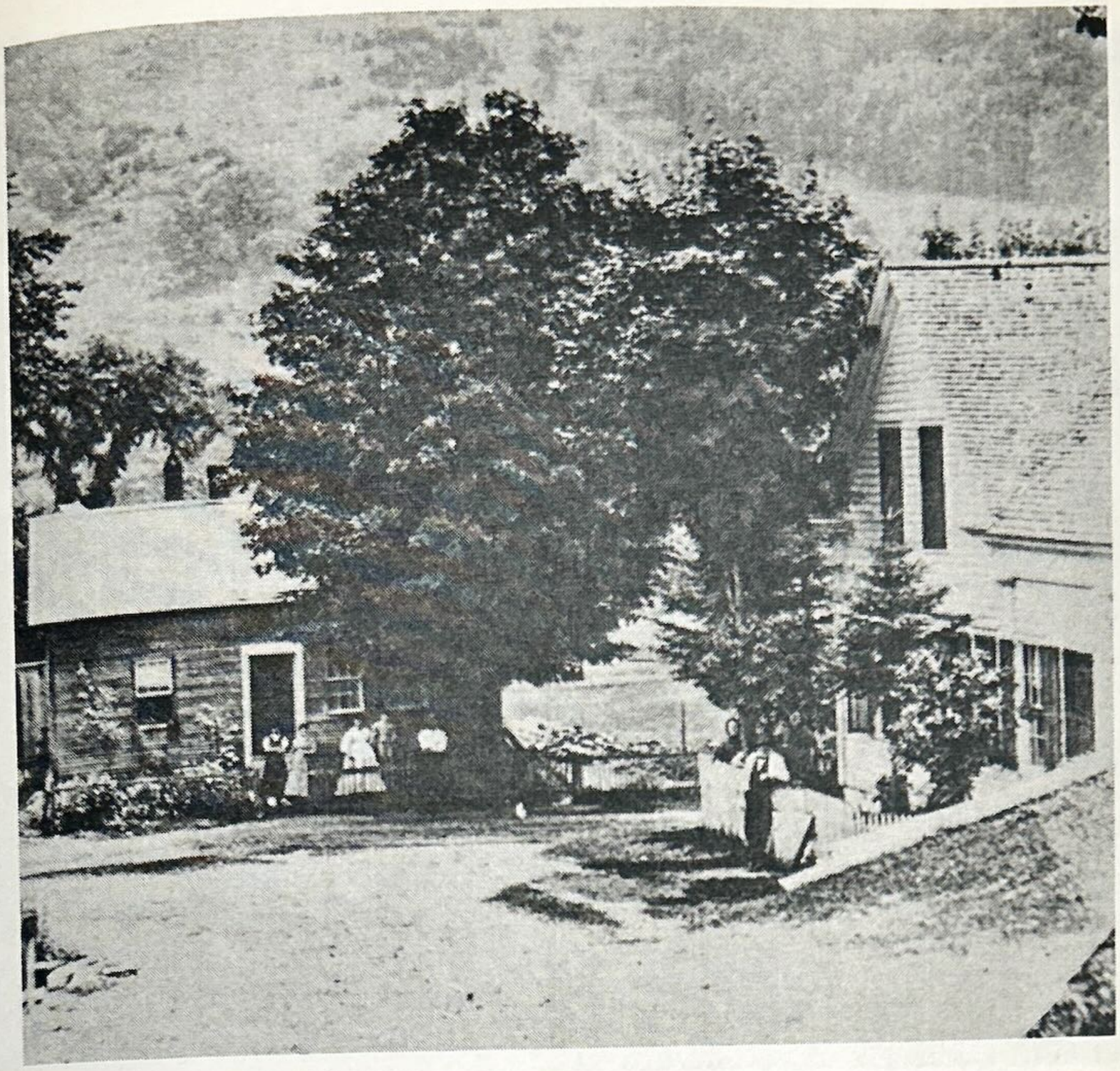
Originally the old Lovett Farm. 1853 & 1869 Alden Pinney. Presently owned by John Giorgetti.



Old Jim Severance place behind Giorgetti's on side road. At one time it belonged to Susan Stoddard and son Stedman. No longer in existence.

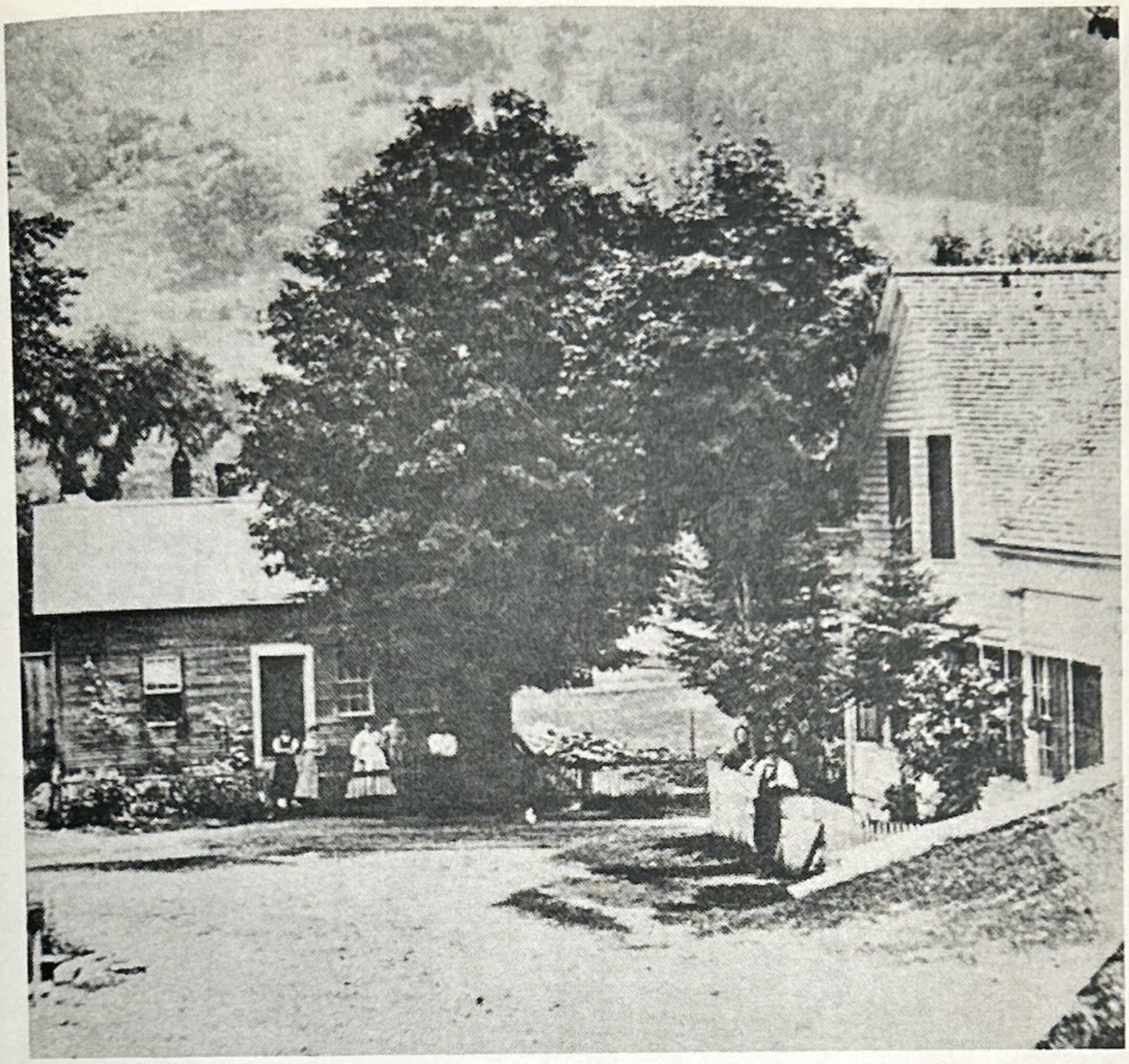
T. Chamberlain 1853 - Joseph Segar 1869. Has since burned.

William Blossom and Family - William Blossom purchased this house in 1866 and returned here to site of the house in which he lived in 1796, when he first came to Pittsfield, a boy of seven years, when his father ran the mills for Charles Goodrich. 1853 G. M. Dains - 1869 Wm. Blossom; present owner Franklin Sulham.



Looking from Lower Michigan Road towards Rte 100 showing the Blossom house on the right (now Franklin Sulham's) and the old Dan Ranney house (1869 map) which has since burned.

Modified Boxed King Truss Bridge in the Hollow. Replaced in very early 1900's.



Looking from Lower Michigan Road towards Rte 100 showing the Blossom house on the right (now Franklin Sulham's) and the old Dan Ranney house (1869 map) which has since burned.

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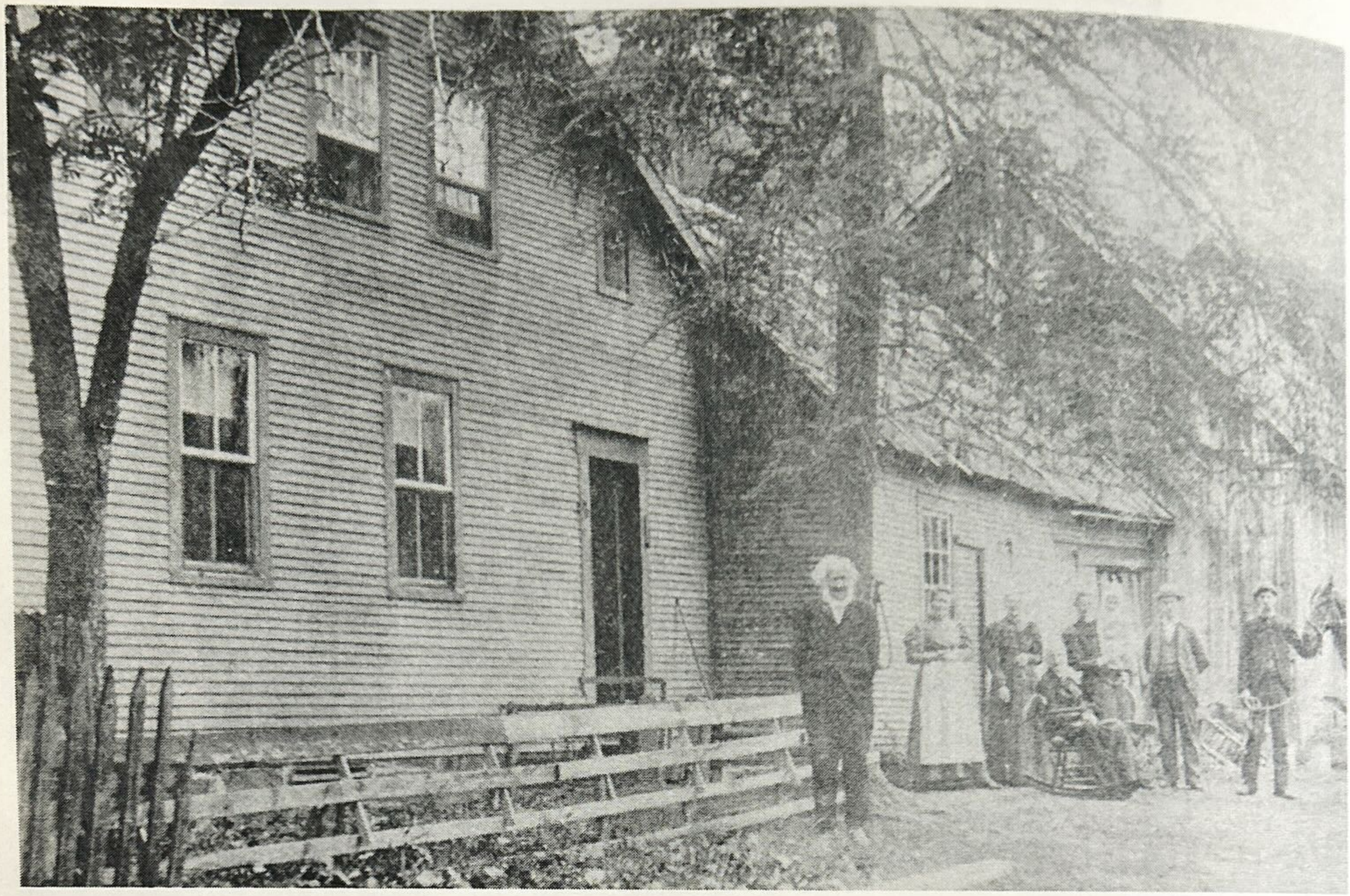
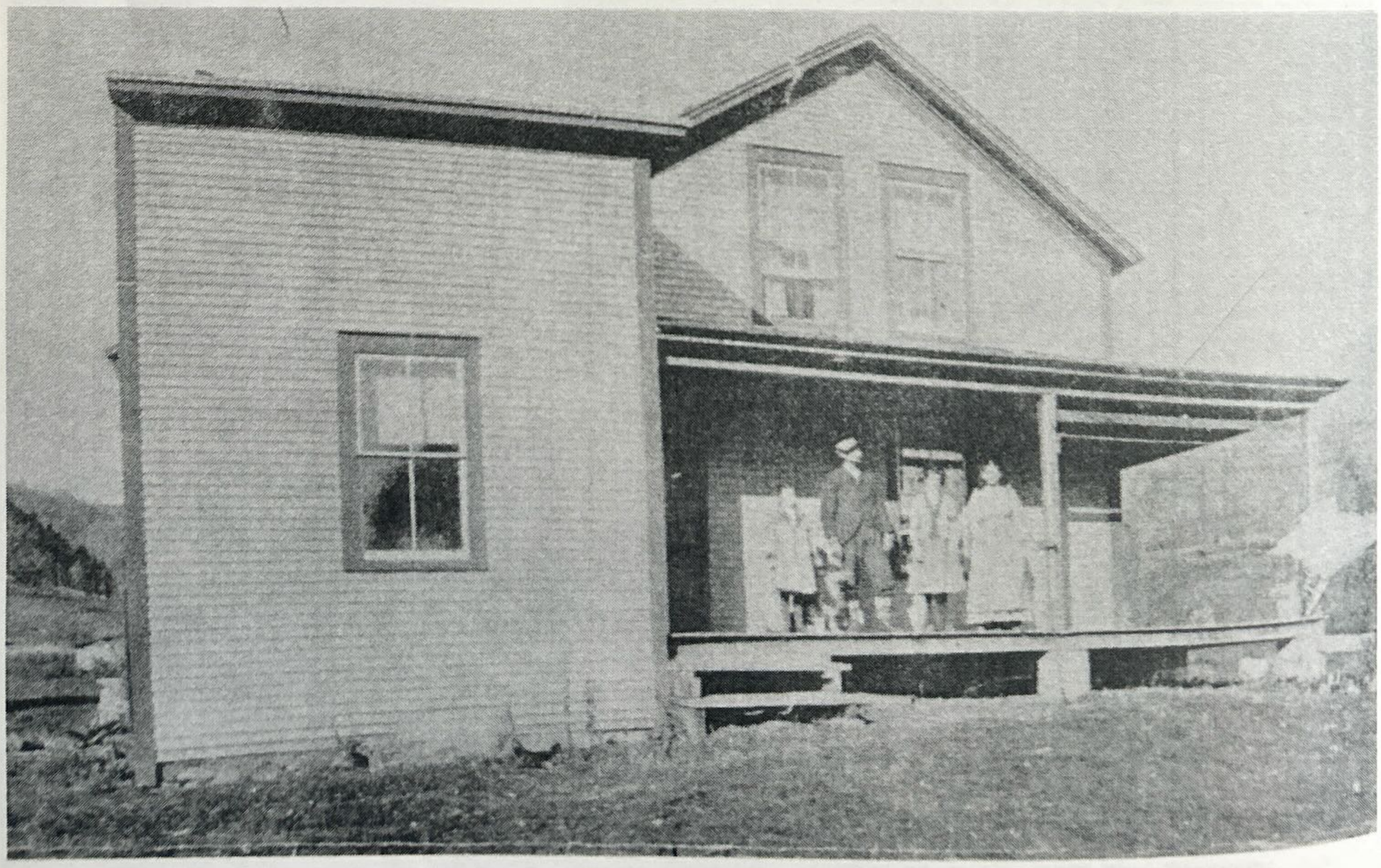
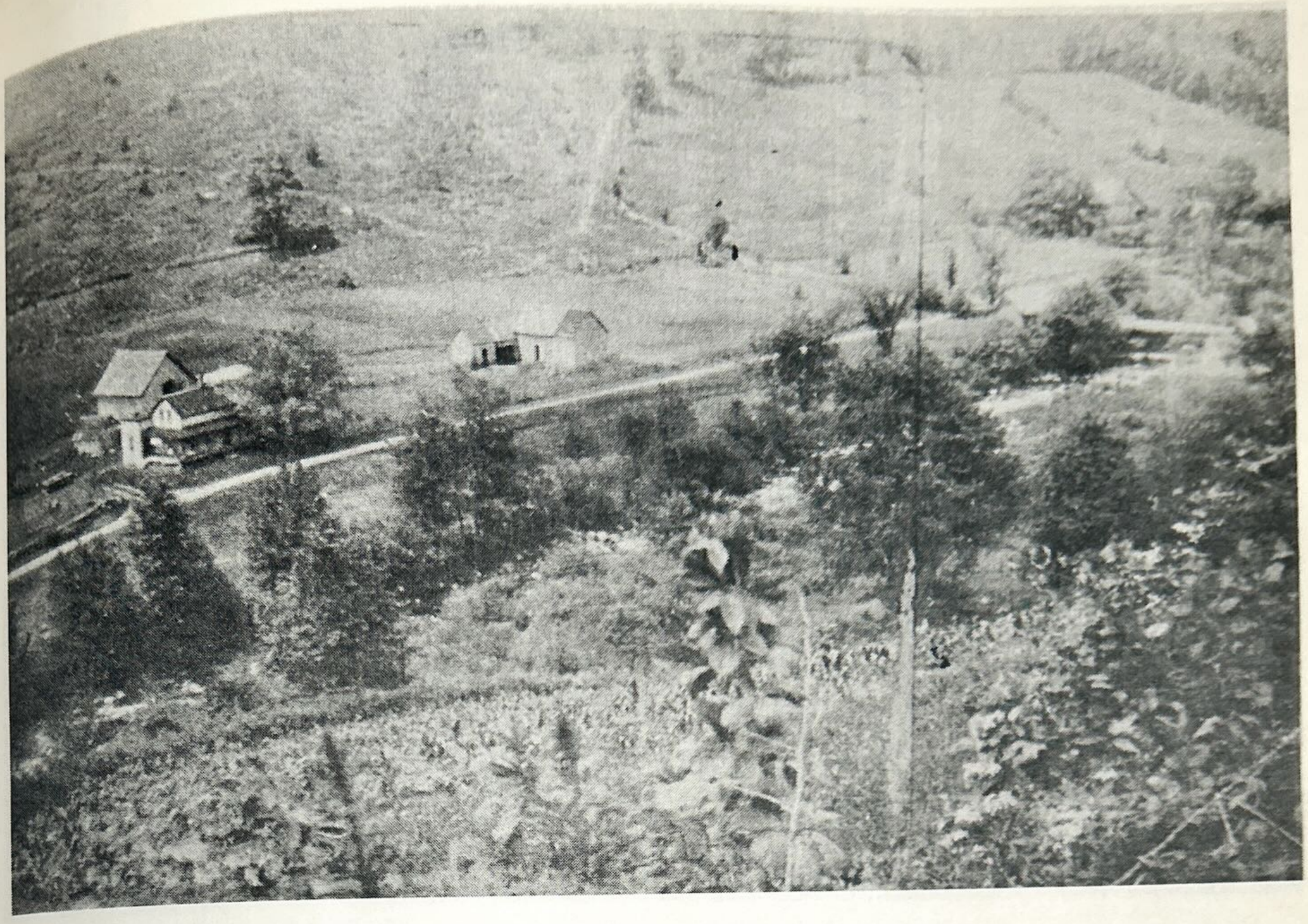


Breed Place. 1853 Mrs. Lowe. 1869 Leonard Breed. Present site of the Schuster House

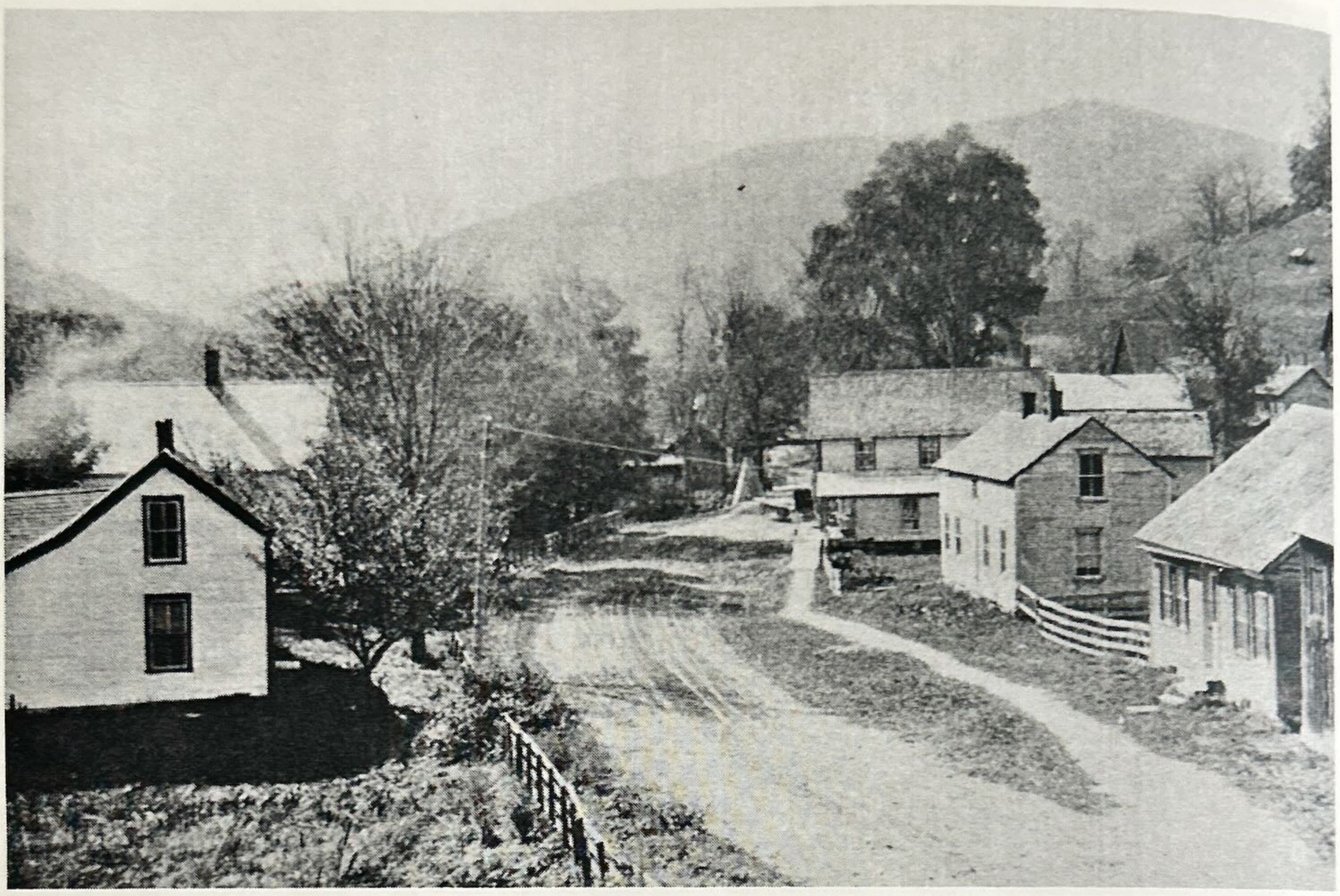


Orville Fifield House - Cerro's 1976; 1853 F. Daley; 1869 E. Segar.

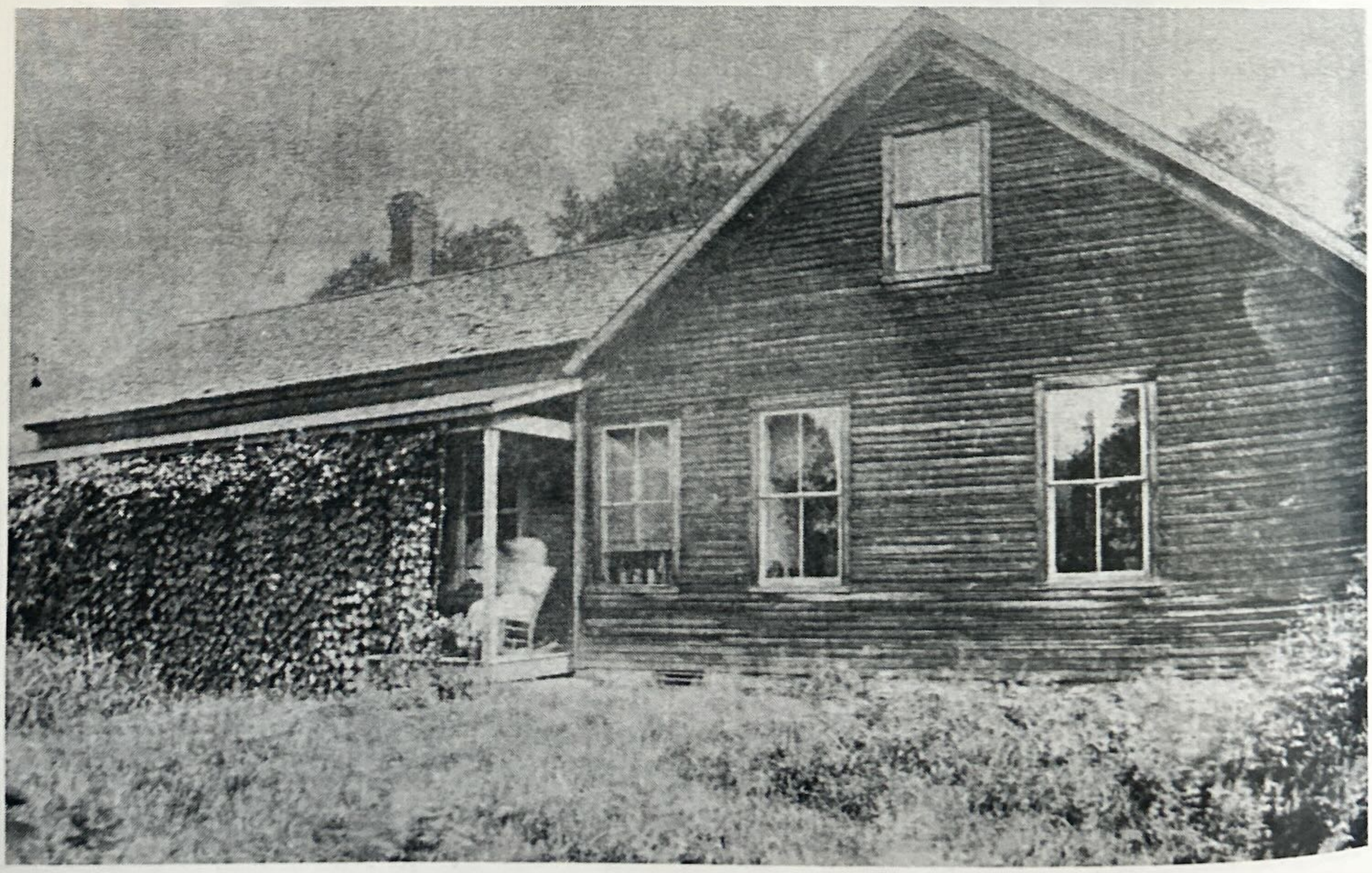


Looking down on Lower Michigan Road 1925.

Formerly the Almo Franzoni camp. 1853 F. Craymer. 1869 G. Blossom.
This place burned. Presently is the Bernard Fairbrother property.

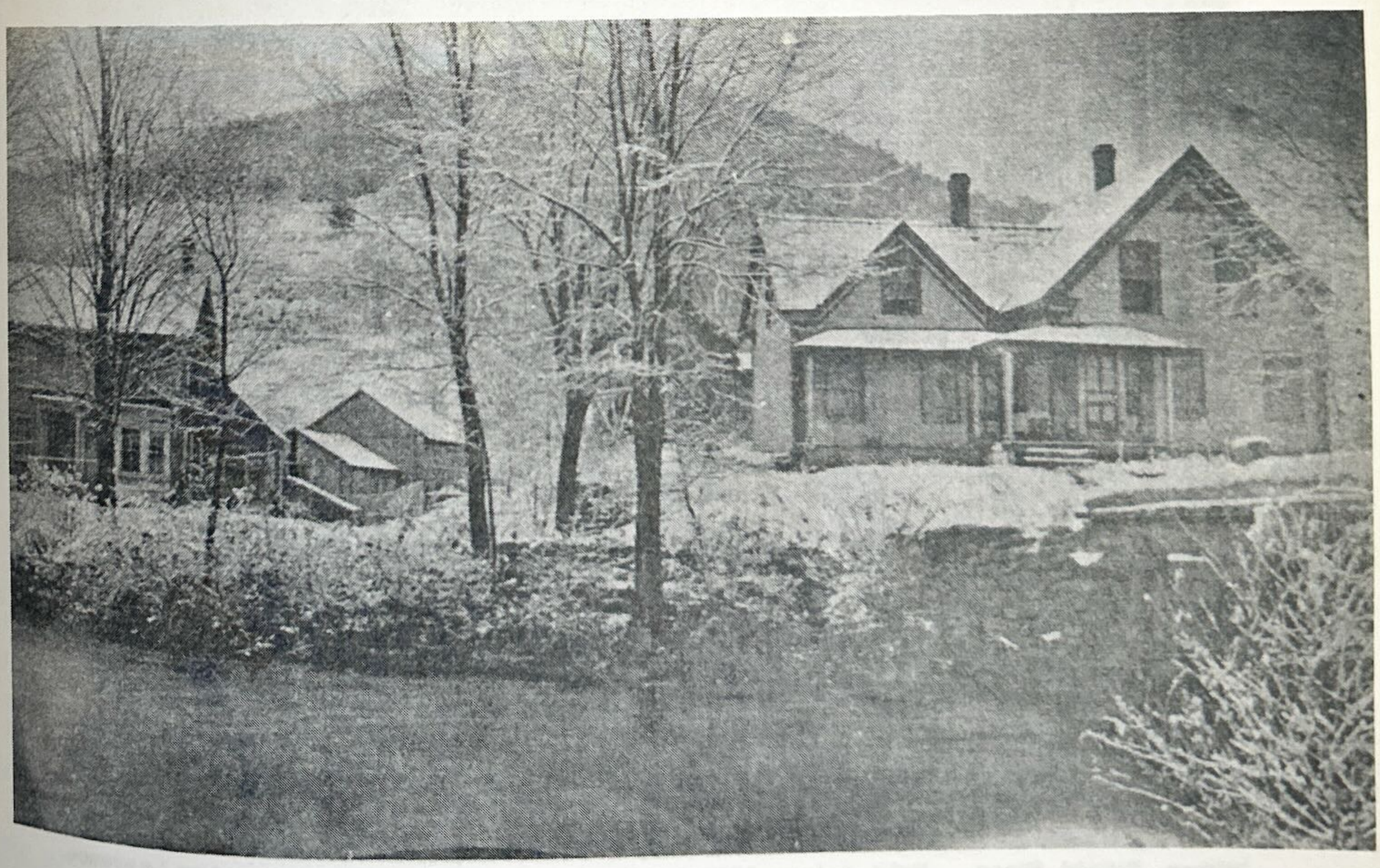


View of the Hollow looking south showing Benjamin Lewis' Cooperage center right and present Selden Taylor on left.

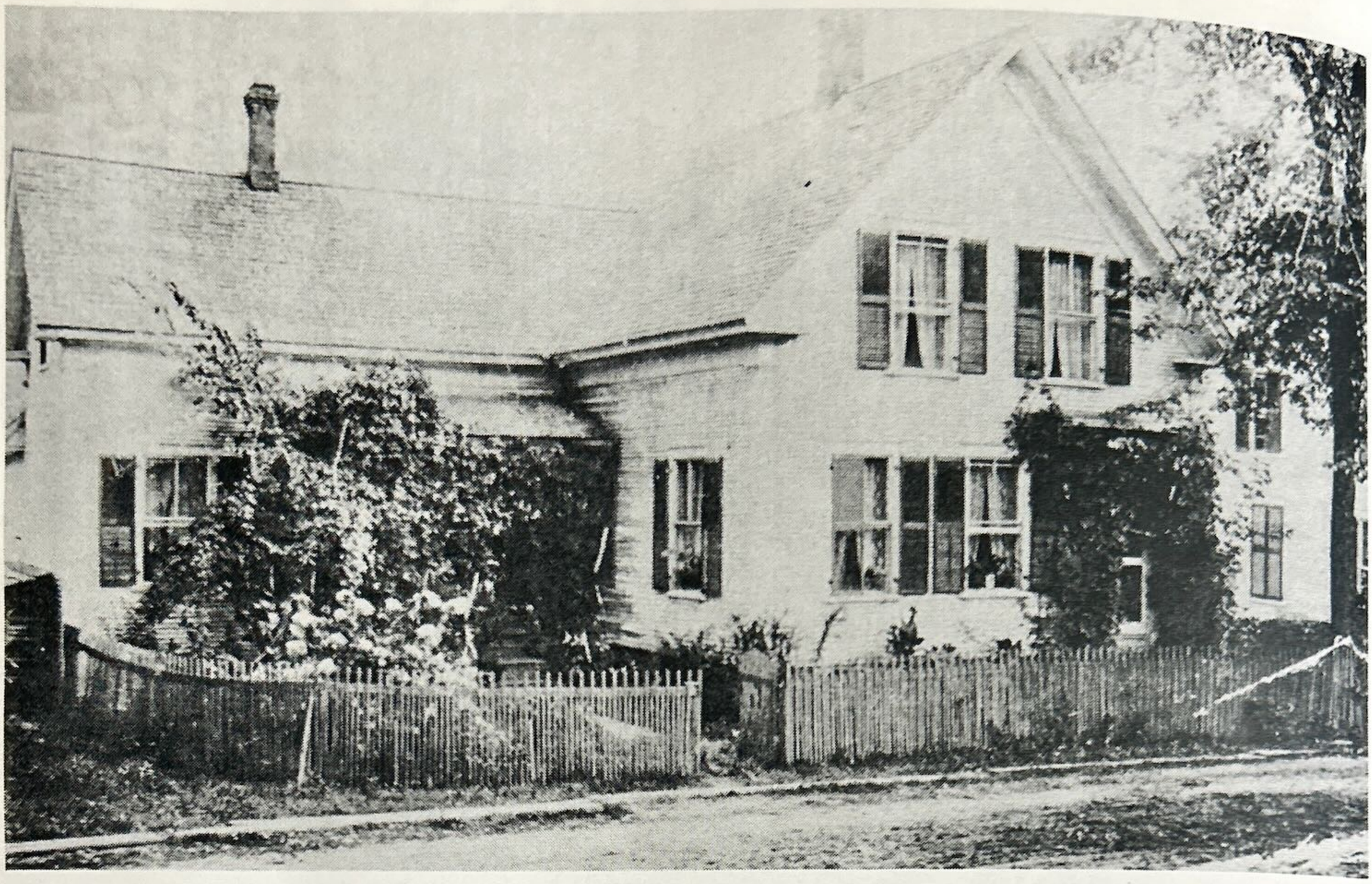


The second house south of the cemetery, originally part of the Lewis cooperage. Now a ski lodge.

May Parmenter House. 1869 A. S. Barr 1976 Richard Fifield.

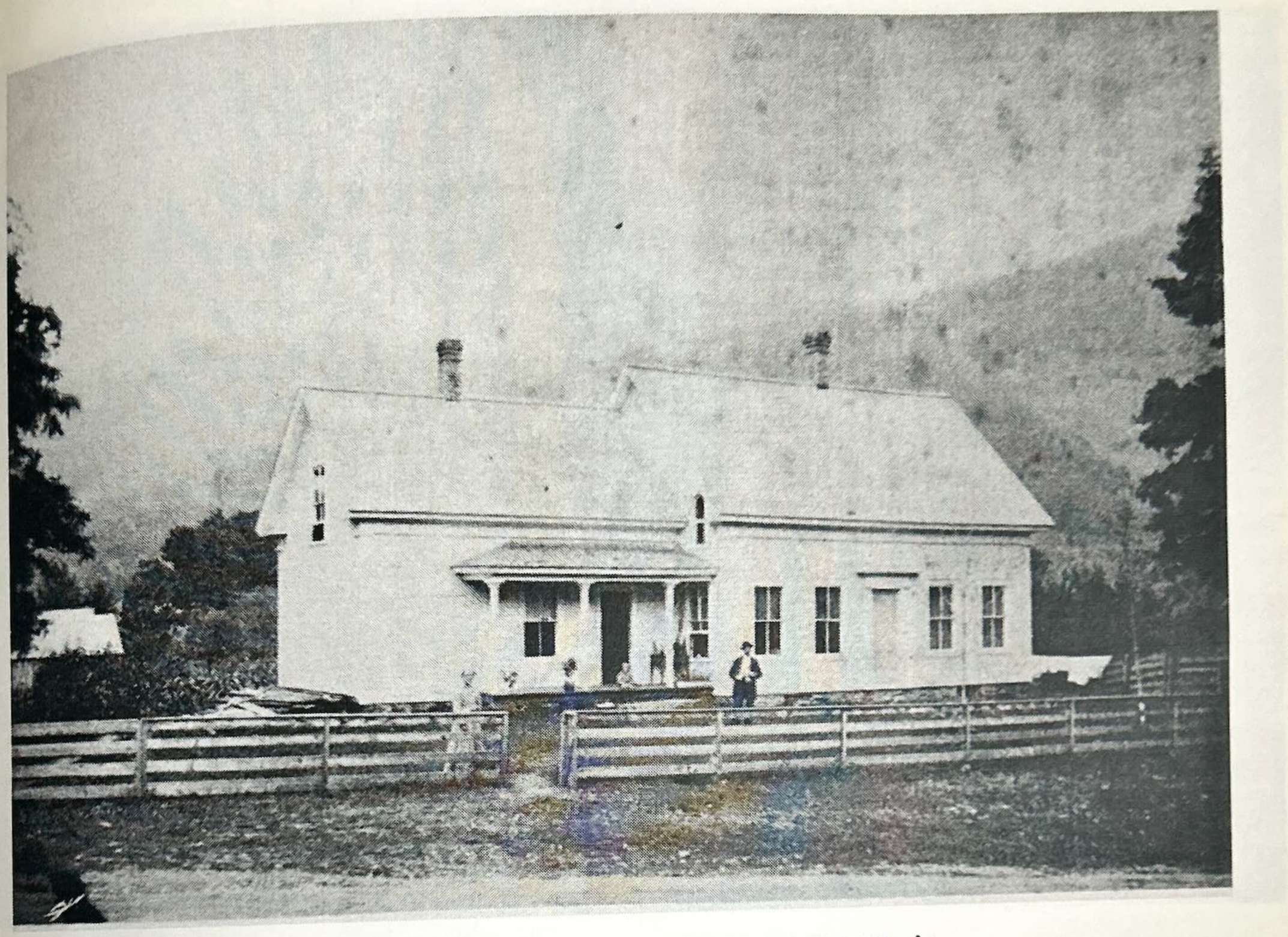


Present Laffan house and beauty shop. 1869 A. Vose. Dick Fifield's on the left.



Hitchcock House. Walter Severance in 1976.

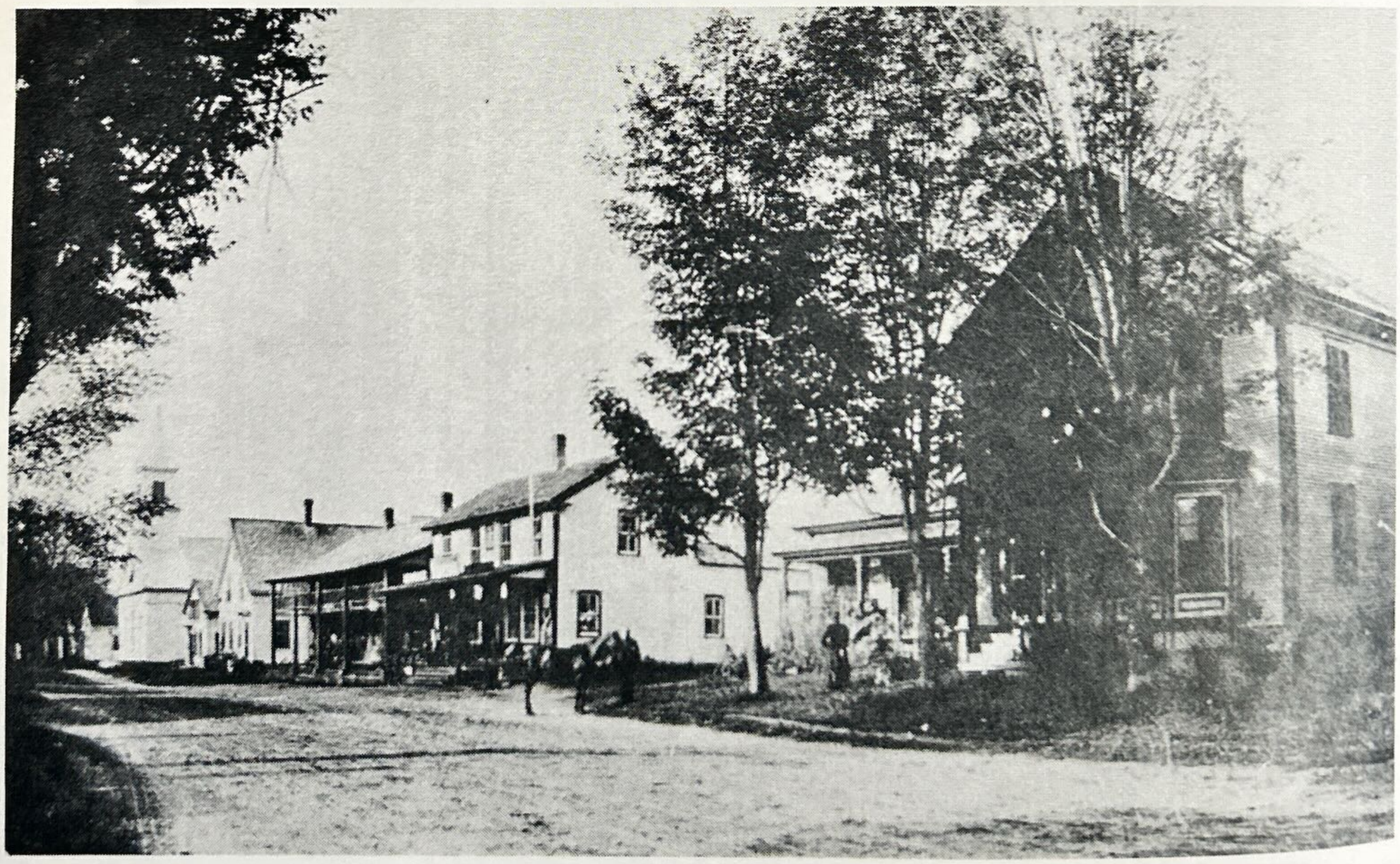
Wilbur Fifield Place. Built before 1869 by Guilford Parmenter and now owned by Lawrence Taylor.



George Nichols house built about 1874. 1976 Kate Davis.

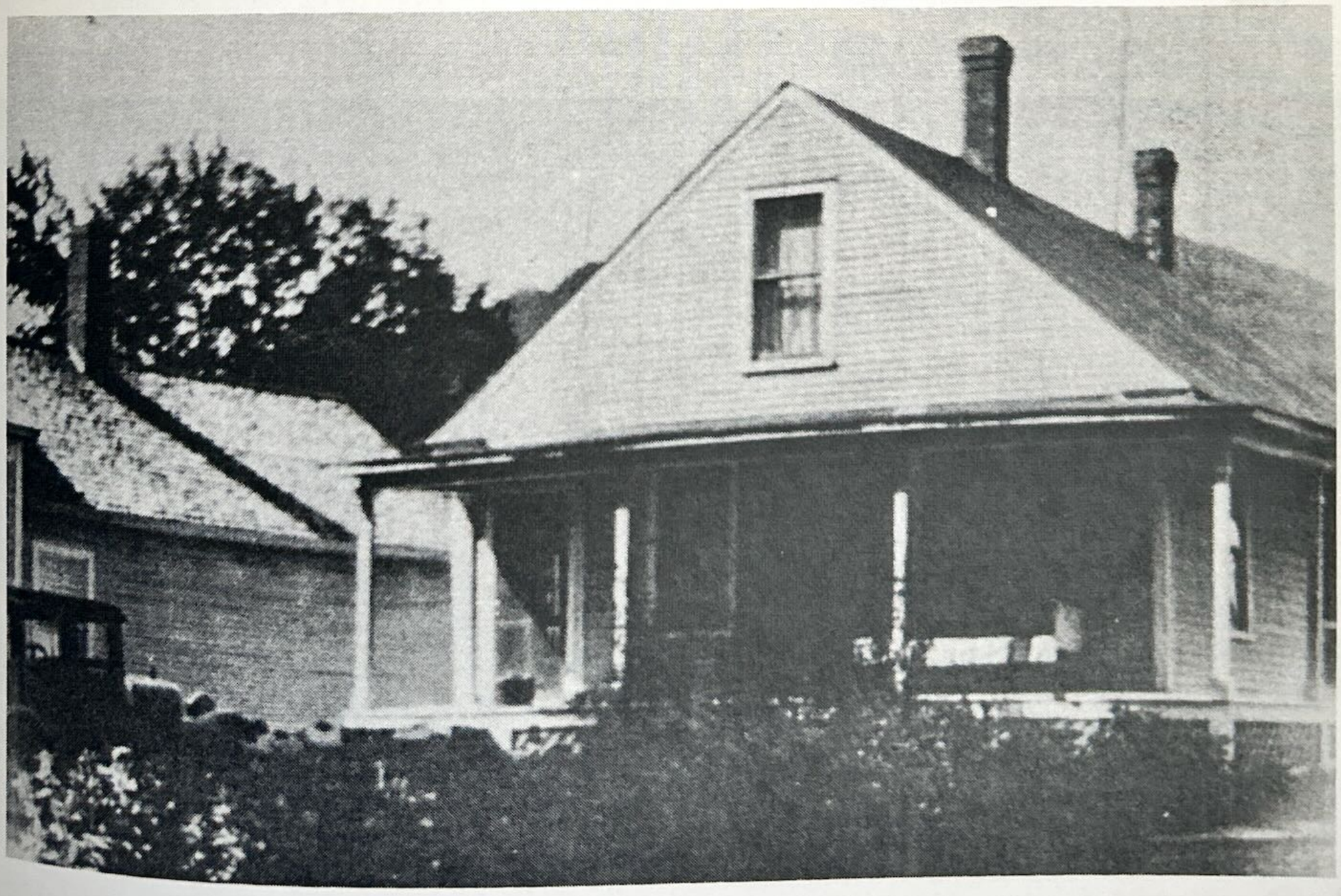
David Daley House - built as early as 1819 by David Daley. William Davis 1869. Later used as Bayonne Boarding House. Present Post Office and Ski Lodge owned by E. E. Martin.

Present home of Cleone Townsend. R. Eggleston living on this site 1869.



Looking South from Powers' Store before 1903.

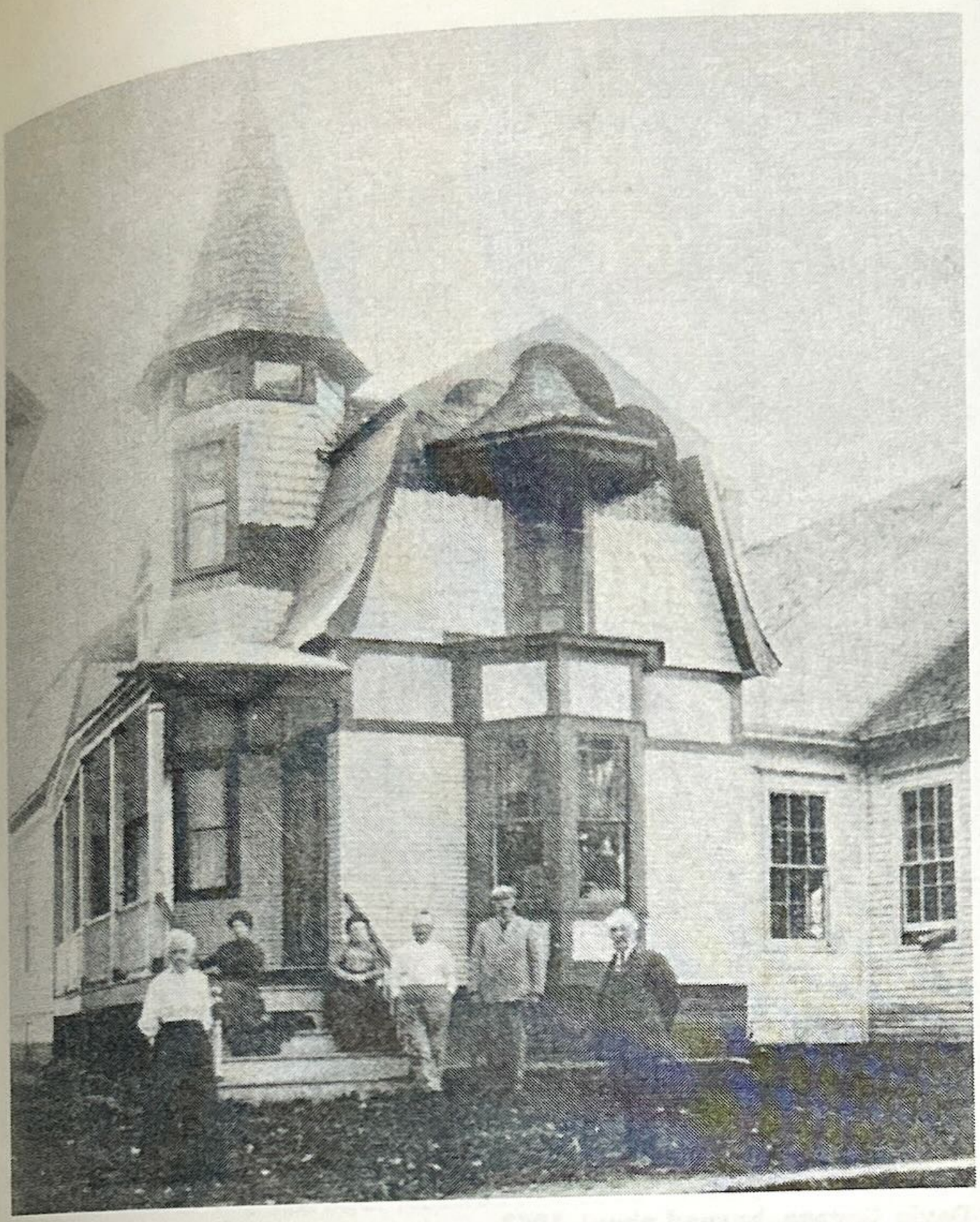
Looking north from the common before 1900.



Earl Cook house 1976. Woodbury 1853. T. Perigo 1869. Built prior to 1799 and is likely the oldest house in town.

Chedel house last occupied by Ralph Maynard. Burned 1941. 1853 - Misses Fish. 1869 - Sarah Fish.

Luther Taylor place. George McCollum on the 1853 and 1869 map. Torn down.

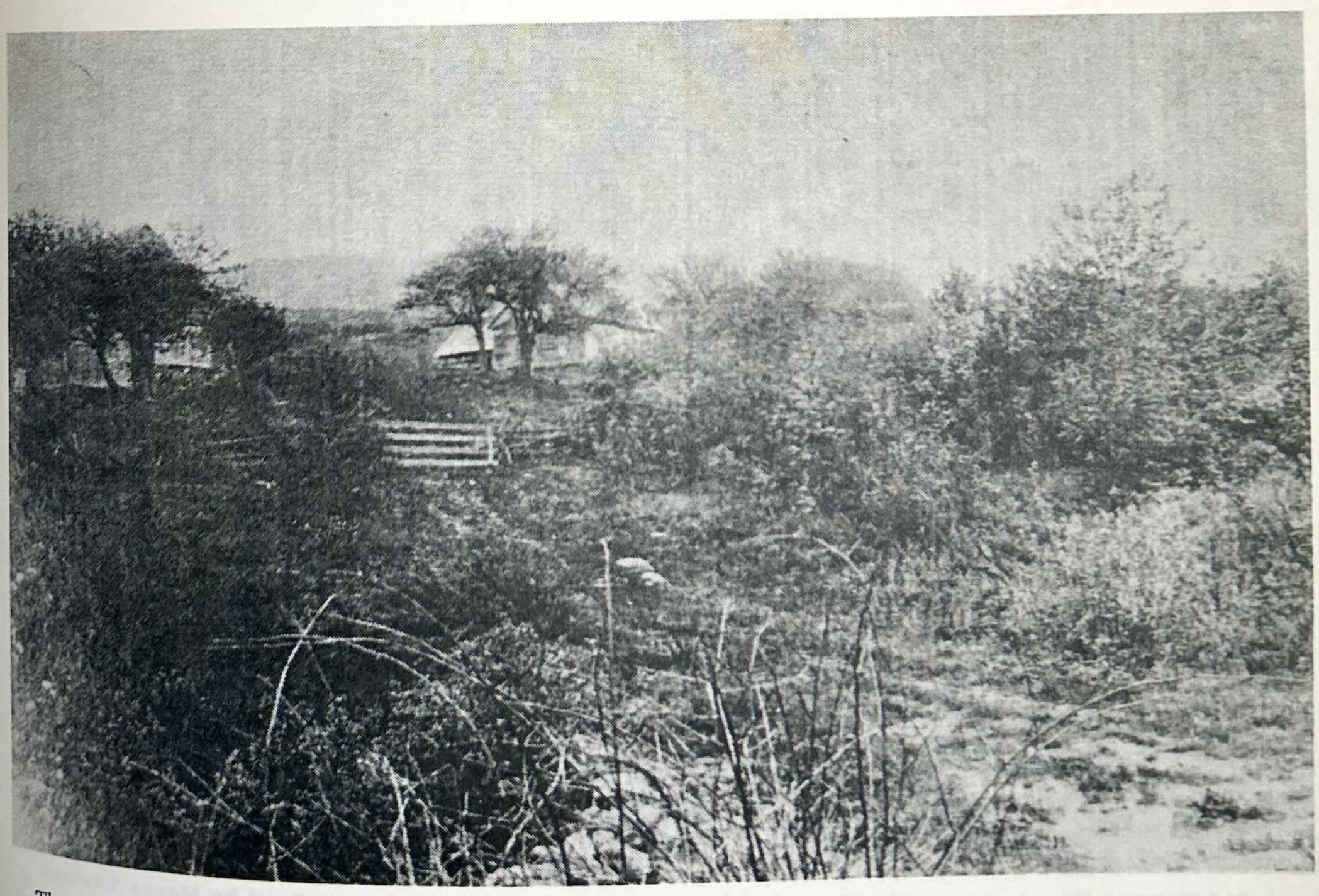


Present Bessie Wilson house.

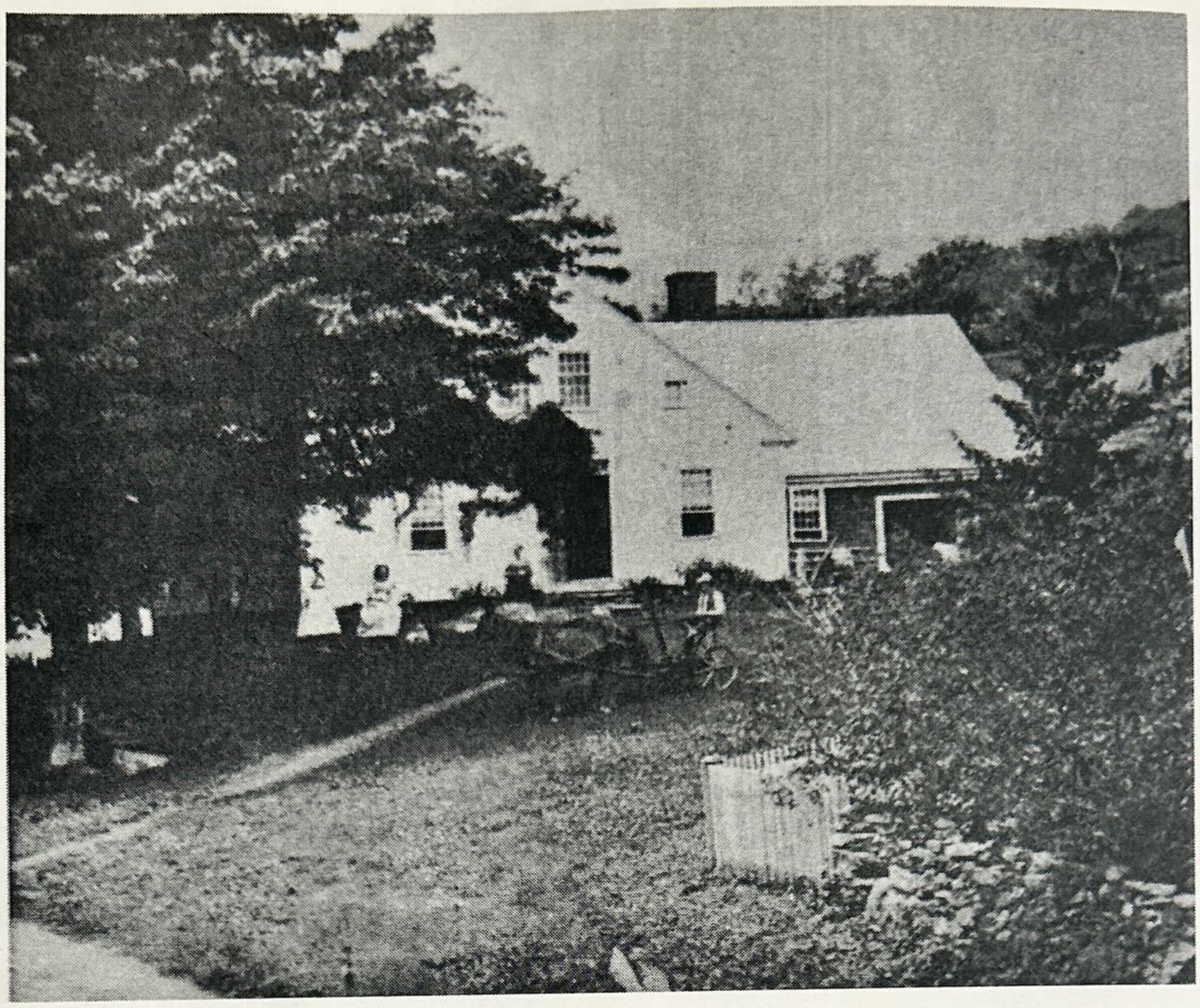
Frank Durkee house. 1853 Bass and Flint residence. 1869 T.C. Hubbard residence. Burned 1938.

Earl Davis Garage-burned about 1963.

Present Richard Ellis house. 1853 and 1869 Joel Ellis.



The Rockwell Farm north of Richard Ellis's. 1853-EBR (Eleazer B. Rockwell.)



Erwin Lamb house-owned by Joseph Durkee, great grandfather of Olive Ferrick This property was, for many years, owned by Erwin Lamb, but is now the main office of Hawk Mountain Corporation.

Old Thomas House - presently Fleur de Lis Lodge owned by L. Sackrider. Built by Moses Thomas 1835 and owned by his son C. A. Thomas, 1869.

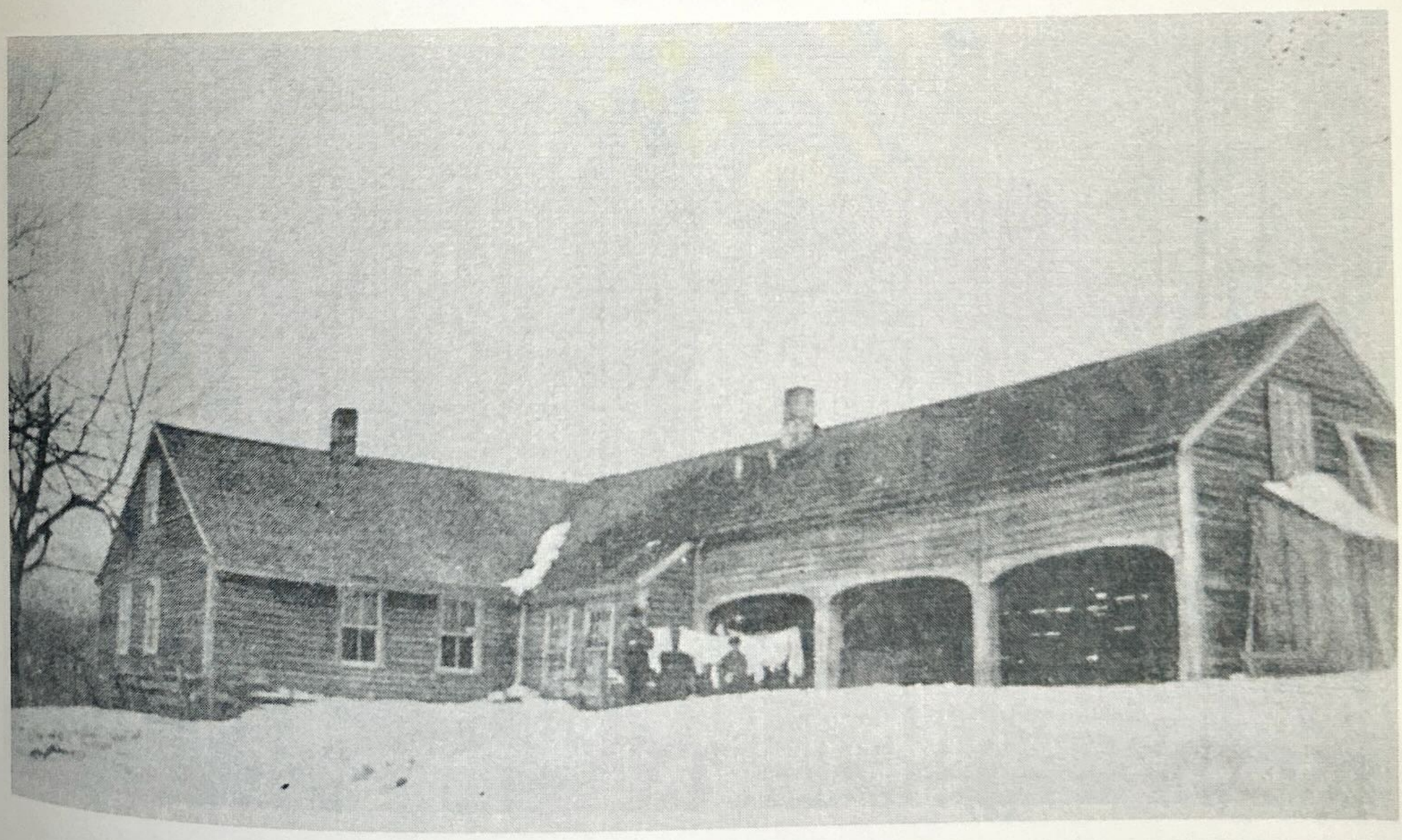
Feerick/Bonin house in 1976. 1853 and 1869 Orton Hatch.

Present Bob Colton house. 1853 and 1869 J.Ranney.

Present Bob Colton house. 1853 and 1869 J.Ranney.
The first school in town appears in background.

Green Hollow on Liberty Hill Road looking south.

Daily Parmenter house on Liberty Hill. 1869 Since burned.



Frank Gokey place on Liberty Hill. 1853 Martin Parmenter 1869 T. L. Parmenter.

Dr. Emerson's birthplace. L. Parmenter in 1853 - R. Crossman 1869 on Liberty Hill.

Dr. Emerson and his Mother.

DR. CHARLES WESLEY EMERSON

Dr. Charles Wesley Emerson, the son of Thomas and Mary (Hewitt) Emerson, was born November 30, 1837 in the Liberty Hill section of Pittsfield. (House occupied 1853 by L. Parmenter; in 1869 by R. Crossman).

At the age of 19 he preached his first sermon, and was later ordained by the Association of Congregational Ministers. After serving for several years each in pastorates in Halifax, Brookfield and Northfield, Vermont he was installed as pastor in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, "a popular pastor to a large and flourishing congregation". Poor health forced him to give up this field of work, and having previously graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, with a degree of M.D., and from Boston University in Law and Oratory, he received appointment as lecturer on Vocal Physiology and Hygiene in the B.U. School of Oratory. After the death of its president Dr. Emerson was instrumental in opening a School of Oratory later recognized as the largest school of vocal expression in the world.

An obituary notice of his death in the *Boston Post* of December 2, 1916, reads in part: "He was an educator who believed unfalteringly in the infinite possibilities of man. This was one secret of his power in the classroom. He always expected the best from every student."

INDUSTRY

MILLS

Due to Pittsfield's natural access to water power it was only a matter of a few years before mills sprang up in several places along the river banks. As previously mentioned, the first sawmill and gristmill were built by Charles Goodrich.

These mills were later owned by Nathan Eddy, James Goodrich, and in 1809 sold to Penuel Child for $500. By 1831 they had come into the possession of Spaulding & Hodges, and a new mill erected by them prior to 1833, presumably on the same site. The 1853 map shows George M. Dains as owner, but in 1869 Joseph Segar owned the gristmill and Almon Thompson the sawmill and finishing shop, where he manufactured bedsteads. Child's *Directory* of 1882 shows the owner of the gristmill as C.A. Brown and the sawmill owned by Brigham & Atwood. In 1867, soon after Brigham & Houghton had built a new mill it was ravaged by fire, with a loss of $2000 above the insurance. Later Dr. Brigham blasted the rock under the mill to lower the water level by 6 feet, to get more power.

There were several other early mills. One of these built by 1799, was on the Gardner Baker property. Another built by Isaac Eddy was located between the present Deer Brook Lodge and Harvey Hunt's. When Eddy sold it he reserved a section for a fulling mill which may have been the one referred to by Thompson in 1840, if it were ever built. Tisdale Lincoln was running this sawmill in 1820.

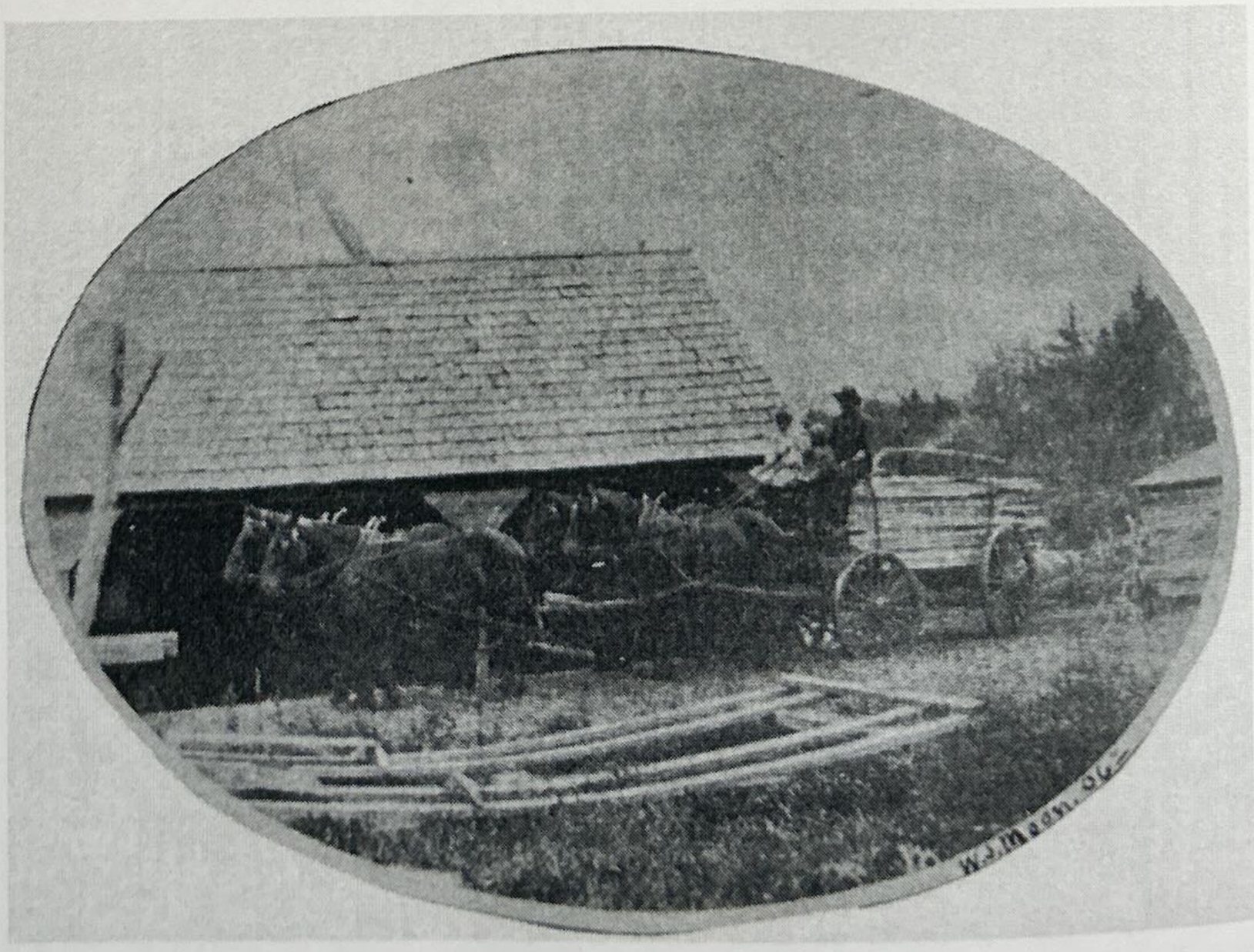
John Densmore sold to Silas Keeler, in 1837, land on which was erected a sawmill, near the present Fairbrother property. Subsequent owners were Seth Gibbs, Ebenezer Swan, Frances Cramer, Orvis Blossom, and in 1860, George Nichols. In 1882 it was owned by Harris Ranney, who employed 12 men and was producing 1 million feet of lumber and 500,000 feet of clapboards annually. Heavy rains in July 1889, which damaged roads and buildings, was probably responsibile for the reported loss of the dam here, as it was for destruction of the Ray Durkee dam in Guernsey Hollow. The Ranney mill was later moved.

A shop and sawmill was located by the bridge near the Rodney Rice place, off the Tozier Hill road. Sold at one time by Stillman Blanchard to Albert Vose. He sold it in 1877 to Amiel Pinney for $400. J.M. Segar and C.A. Thomas sold it to Asa Hayes, who, according to Childs in 1882, had one lumber saw, one clapboard saw and two planers, employed twelve men and produced 900,000 feet of lumber and 600,000 feet of clapboards each year.

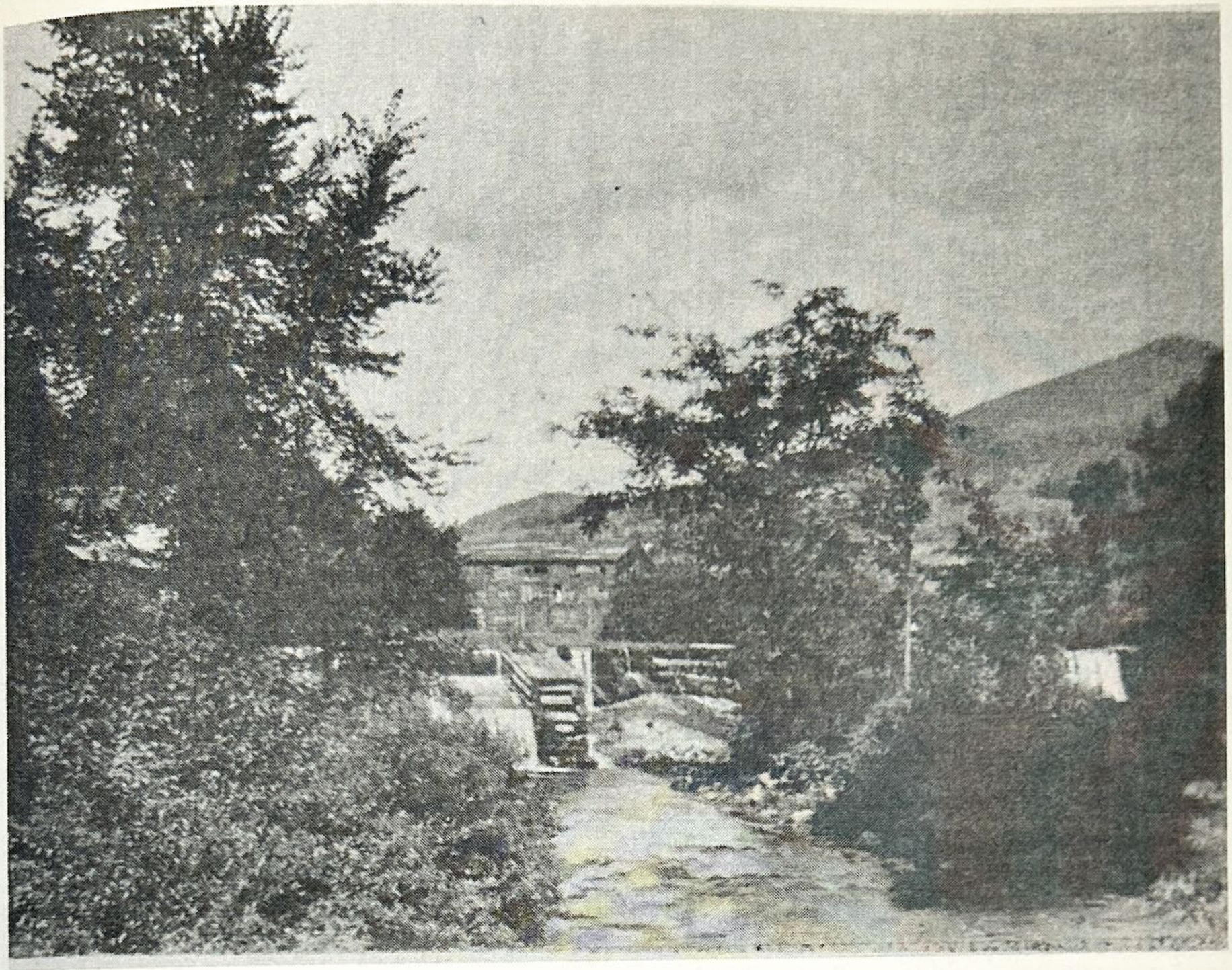
The Upper Michigan area was the site of two sawmills in 1882, Brigham & Co. cutting on an average, every 24 hours, well over 20 thousand feet of lumber. On one 8½ hour day, using one of Emerson's inserted-tooth saws, they cut 11,789 feet of hardwood, about one third of which was in 2½-inch planks — the rest inch boards. In the same year William H. Sherburne built a new steam mill only 40 rods from Brigham's mill. While both of these mills were located just over the line in Chittenden, they were owned and operated by Pittsfield residents using Pittsfield help.

John Fisk was the owner of one of the above mills in 1889, with Mrs. Fisk running the boarding house and cooking for 25 men. The boarding house was a large building with a kitchen, dining room and barroom on the first floor, and sleeping quarters upstairs. Horses as well as oxen were used to drag the logs from the woods to the mill. Chaffee & Sons purchased this property about 1908.

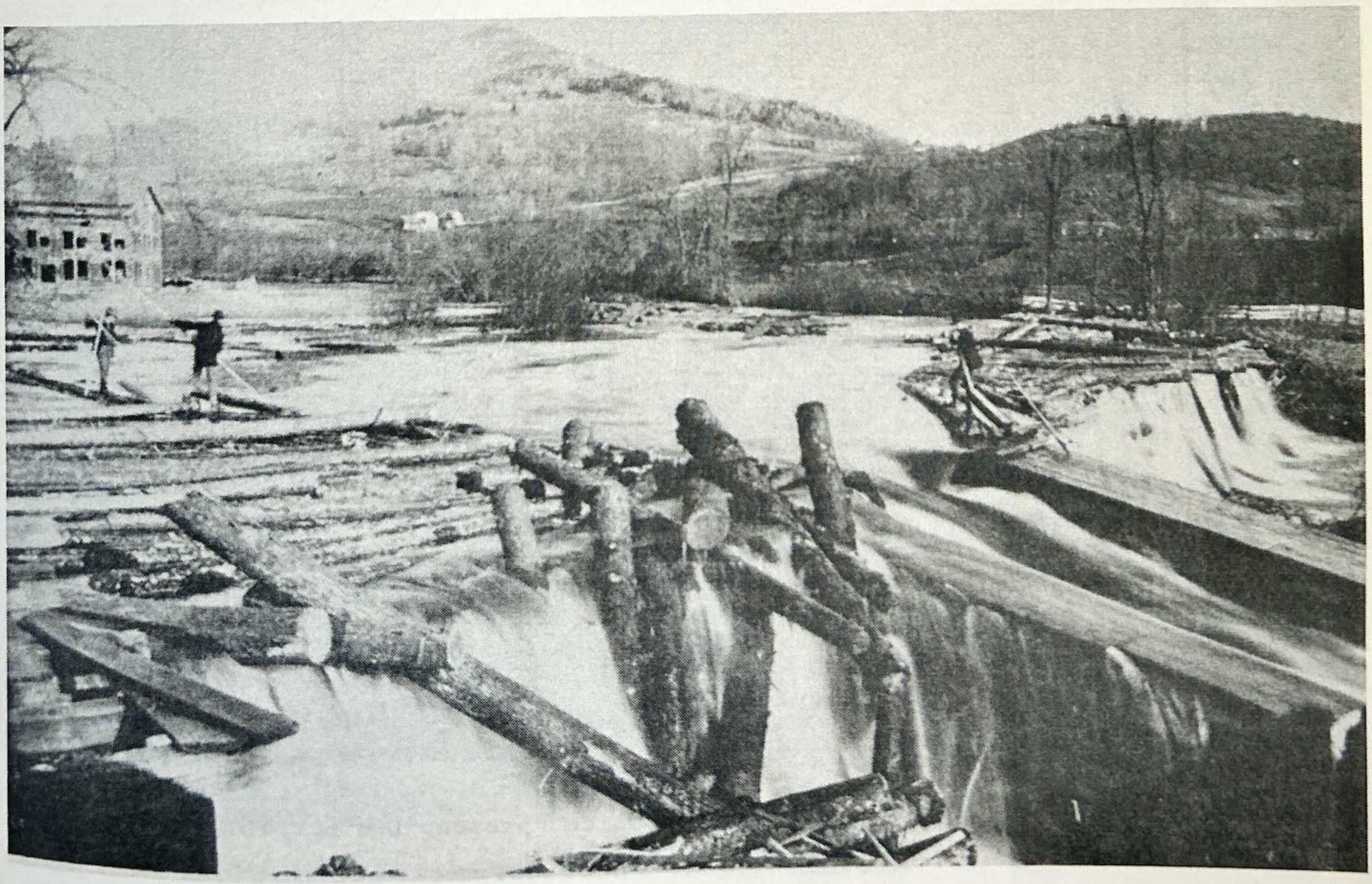
In Guernsey Hollow, about 1869 were the gristmill and sawmill of A.P. Guernsey and Forrest's Wagon Shop. Later Frank Durkee owned the two mills; the blacksmith shop and Carriage shop were operated by Mr. Guernsey till about 1880. Here, according to Childs, Ray Durkee was employing fifteen men and producing 100 gross of ivory and bone buttons daily. Durkee's dam was destroyed during high water in 1889. The Button shop was sold to Avery and Vose who manufactured a variety of chairs, of which some may be found in Pittsfield today.



Mill in Pittsfield - does anyone know its location?

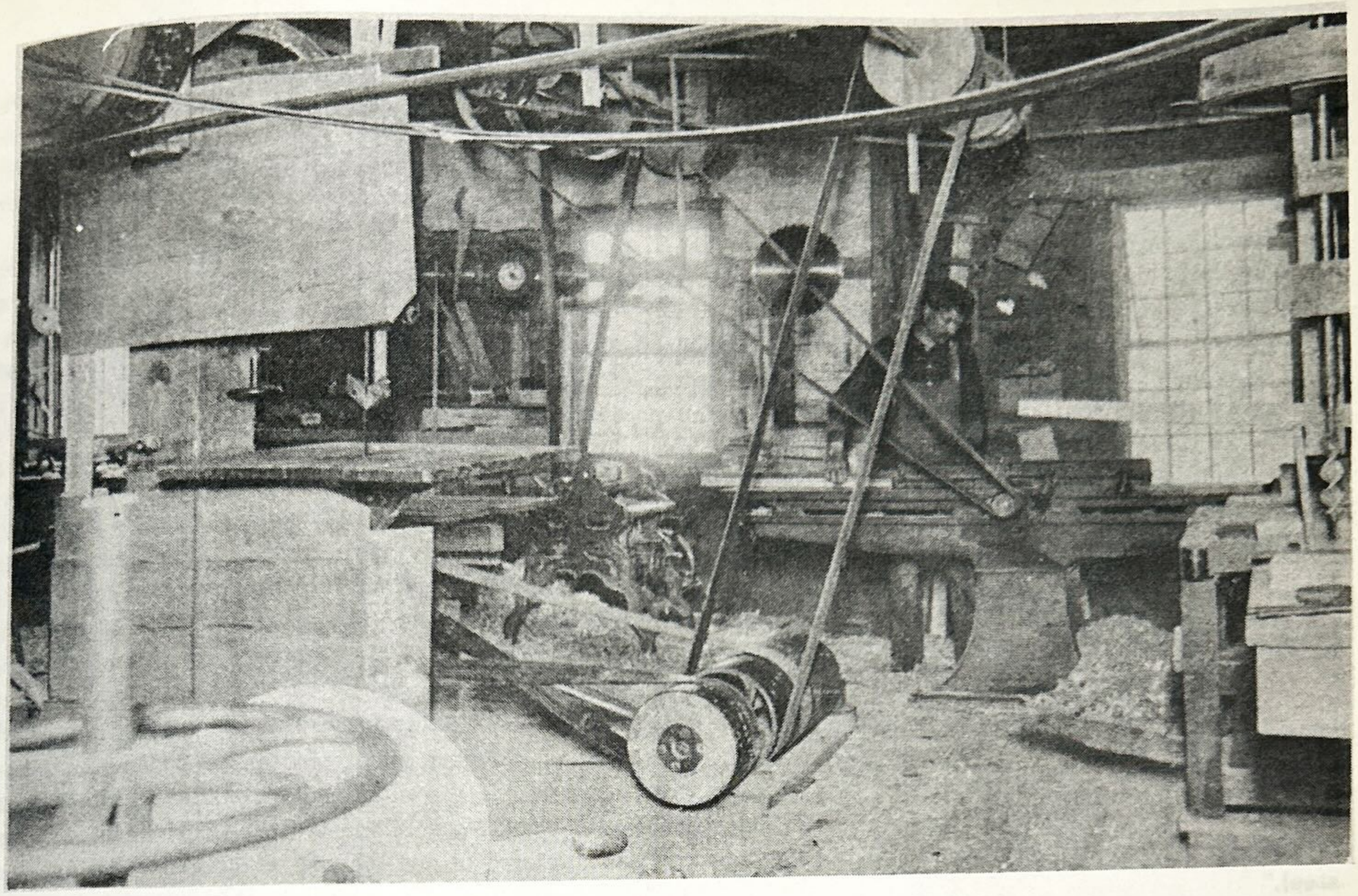


Views of Wilcox Peak, the Dam and the Bicycle Rim Factory, sometimes called the Keene Building.

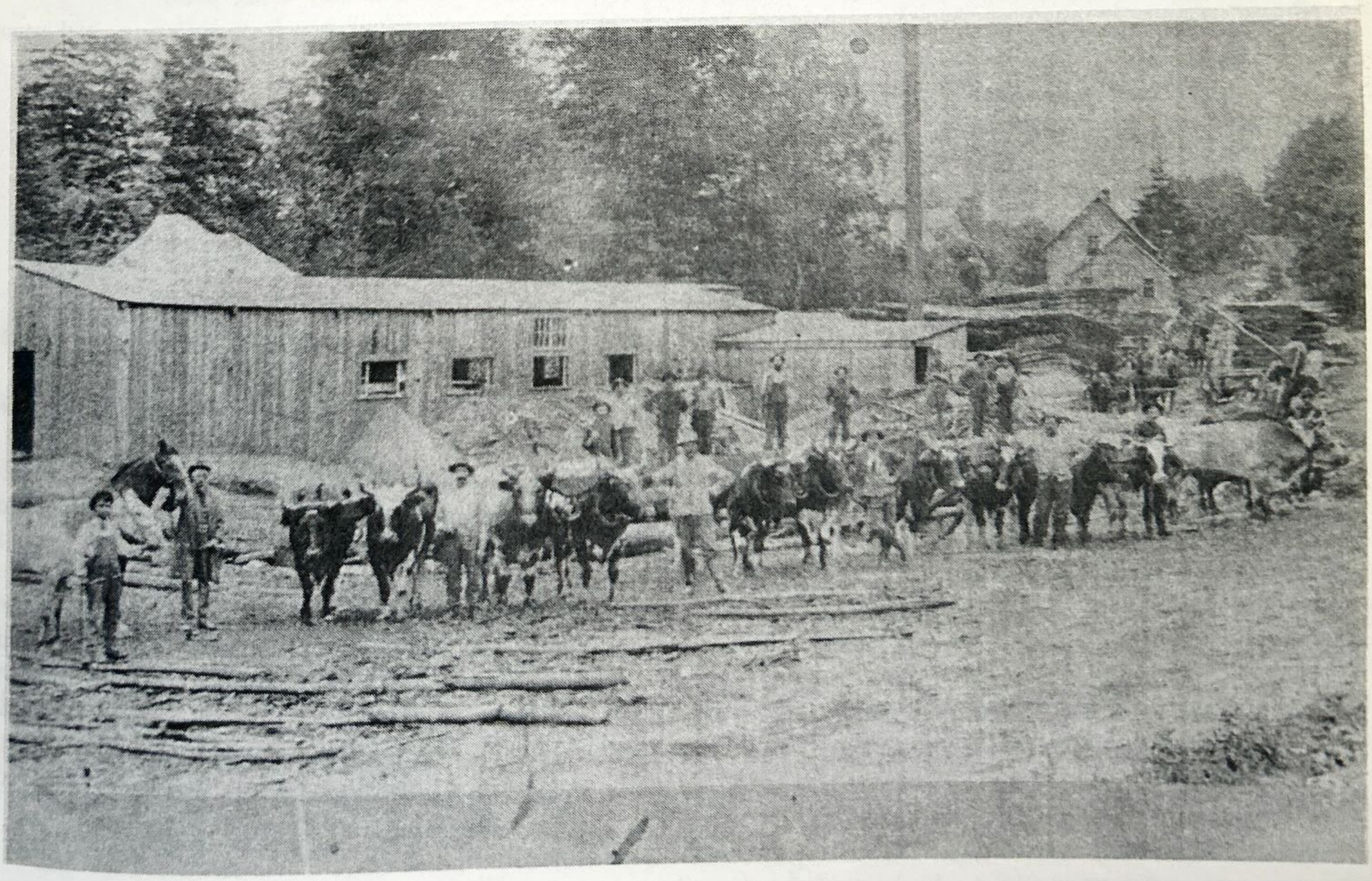


The Dam on the West Branch, Wilcox in the background, Mill and Bicycle Rim Factory.

Mill on lower Michigan Road opposite present Don Cerro house.



Mill owned by Frank Fish at junction of Lower Michigan Road and Route 100.



John Fisk's Mill in Michigan about 1906.

GOLD AND IRON MINING

In the late 70's and early 80's glowing tales of gold and magnetic iron sand deposits all along the White River and its tributaries caused a flurry of activity in Pittsfield and nearby areas. The 1927 flood removed the last evidence of sluice boxes in the southern part of the town, where, according to Clayton Fifield, some gold was panned and a nugget, the largest found, was taken from the bank of South Branch, near the Gardner Baker farm.

A news item from HERALD and NEWS of August 8, 1878, quotes Mr. J. J. Saltery, Supt. of White River Iron Co. "the gold in many places is sufficiently intermixed with magnetic iron sand, that the gold would not only pay the expenses, but would provide a profit."

Although their main office was in Pittsfield (the old #5 schoolhouse, later Irving Johnson residence) the mine and boardinghouse were located about two miles west of this village, on the Lower Michigan Road.

Child's Gazetteer of 1881-1882 gives the following account: "A company was formed Mar. 4, 1880, duly incorporated at Hartford, Conn., for the purpose of manufacturing iron from the ore found in Pittsfield, with a capital stock of $2,500,000 divided into 25,000 shares at $100 each. Four directors were chosen: J. J. Saltery, Pres., Harvey J. Flagler of Boston, Secretary and Treasurer, and Edward L. Chaffee and Charles W. Boutwell as directors. Operations for the development of the ore deposits were commenced March 29, 1880. Buildings for crushing and concentrating the ores with the necessary machinery were erected, roads made from the mines through the valley to the coal kilns and other sections connected with the works. The property owned by the White River Iron Co. was purchased, consisting of about 1400 acres, all bearing the ore in different stratifications, and covered with a fine growth of timber. The ore is mostly quarried and brought to the reduction works for crushing and separating. It is then ready for use at the furnace, for which a foundation for 8 fires has been made and when completed, will produce about ten tons of blooms or billets, per day, allowing an average of two tons of concentrated ore to one ton of metallic iron, at a cost of about $35 per ton, including freight to Bethel. The above mentioned blooms and billets are especially adapted to the manufacture of a fine grade of steel, by the open hearth furnace, or by the use of crucible, for fine tool steel."

The following HERALD and NEWS items tell the rest of the story.

Sept. 16, 1880 "The hands in the Iron Works struck last Monday because of not being paid."

Nov. 25, 1880 "Families of the laborers drawn here to work in the iron mines are in a suffering, and some of them, in an almost starving condition, owing to the stopping of work."

Dec. 2, 1880 "All the attachable property of the White River Iron Co. has been seized by creditors."

Dec. 30, 1880 "The White River Iron Co. has left the town of Chittenden a legacy of paupers."

Jan. 6, 1881 Jubilation - enough money has been raised for the iron company to pay some of its debts."

May 12, 1881 Sale of mine property to satisfy an execution

Dec 12, 1881 White River Iron Co. sells to Pittsfield Iron & Steel Co.—J. J. Saltery, President.

Mar. 12, 1881 Payroll of $400 to $500 being paid weekly to help.

Mar. 23, 1882 French laborers imported from Canada.

May 31, 1882 "The Iron Co. has closed its business and the property has changed hands. It is rumored that the new company will manufacture lumber and woodwork."

After a brief existence Pittsfield Iron & Steel Co., through an appointed trustee sold to the Tweed River Co, July 30, 1883, Theodore Peart, President.

In July 1897 all the property including buildings, machines, shafting and pulleys plus 2959 acres, were sold to Keene Wood Rim Co. which, after a series of four sales, was sold in 1905, to the former president of Keene Wood Rim Co., Theodore Peart (Here Peartville came into being), who kept this property long enough to sell Lot #39 to Champlain Realty Co; the balance to West End Mfg. Co. of which he was president.

In June 1908 the Bayonne Lumber Co. came into possession of this property, and began purchasing more land in Pittsfield and Stockbridge: (1) Bayonne meadow, so-called, where they erected the first band saw mill in the area, reported to have been the second largest in the state at the time; (2) the property in 1976 known as Martin Ski Lodge and Post Office; (3) rights of way (16½ ft) for 4 miles of track connecting this mill with the White River Rail road at Stockbridge; (4) land and rights of way along the West Branch for constructing a single track railroad, land for piling logs and lumber, the so-called Allen and Warren farms, west of Fairbrothers (1976.) and other properties.

Prior to 1900 when plans were made for the White River Electric Railroad to run between Bethel and Rochester, it was planned to run a branch from Stockbridge to Pittsfield. Pittsfield agreed to a bond for $3000, and George Chedel of Pittsfield was named a director. However, for the second time the plan for a railroad betweeen Rochester and Bethel was doomed to failure. After being forced into bankruptcy plans for an electric line were abandoned, and Pittsfield's hopes were shattered.

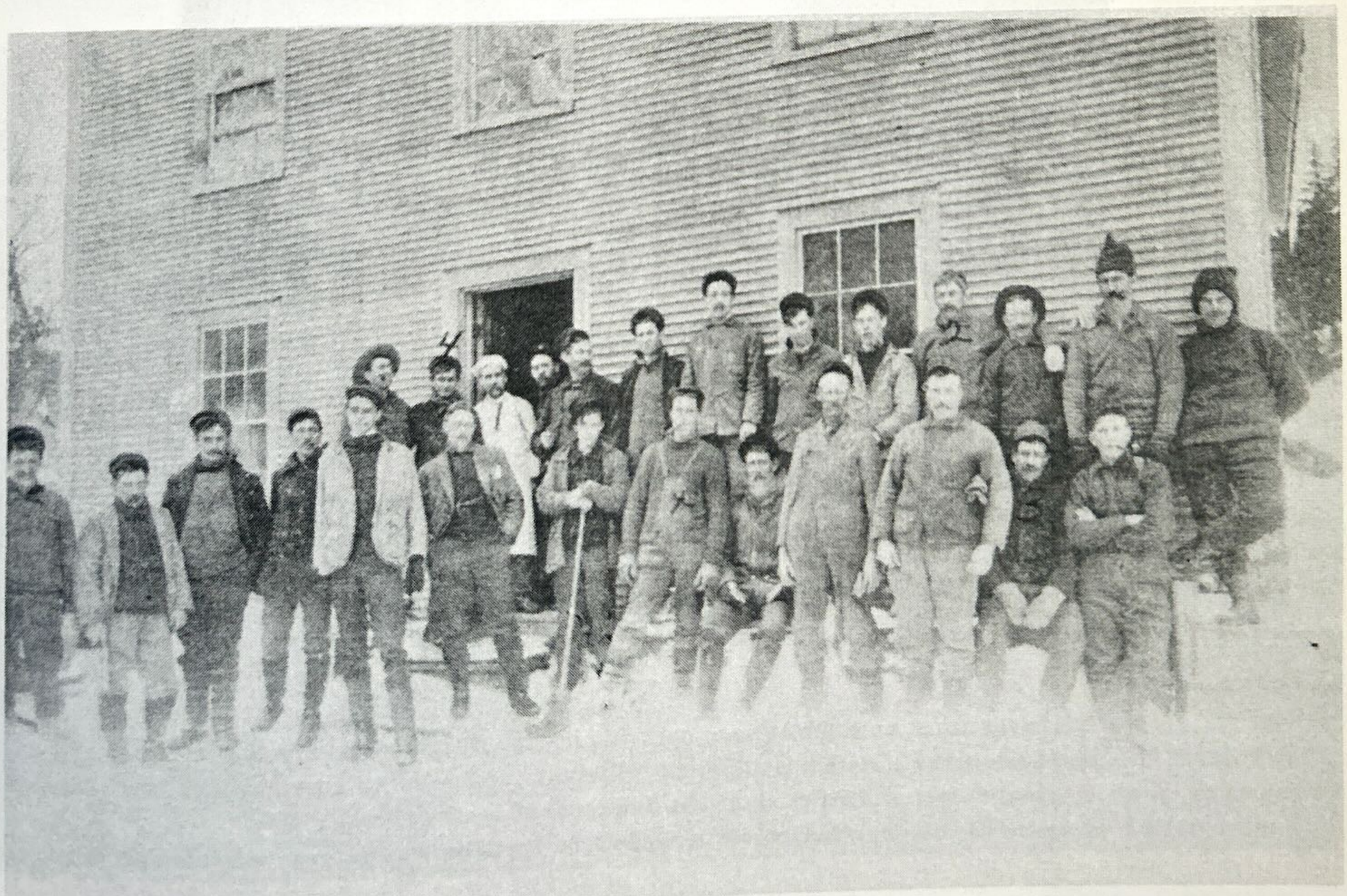
Not until about 1908 when the Bayonne Lumber Co. built its railroad, was Pittsfield actually connected by rail with Stockbridge, and then, only briefly.

The Bayonne Co. was very active here for the next ten, or twelve years, till, in 1920 they sold the stumpage on their lands to Wayne Lumber Co. A cessation certificate was issued to the Wayne Lumber Co. in 1929, and four years later a Court of Chancery assigned to Fred W. Barrows all holdings of the Bayonne Company, having paid off all outstanding mortgages on said property.

Gold Mining behind the Johnson Farm (Sno Bird Lodge 1976).

Gold and Iron Mining Activities.

Mine Boarding House.



Iron Mine.

HEMLOCK BARK

While not a true branch of logging, production of hemlock bark was an important source of income. It was a wasteful process because many of the logs were left to rot in the woods, there being plenty of spruce, hence little demand for hemlock, except for bridge timbers. Hemlock bark was used in tanning leather, and in the 1880's Bethel Tannery was unable to purchase locally, enough to fill their needs. Bark, removed in 4-foot lengths from the trees brought $6 per cord delivered in Bethel.

Herald and News

Nov. 25, 1880. It is thought that more lumber and bark will be shipped from this area than ever before.

Dec. 23, 1880. The road between Pittsfield and Bethel is literally thronged with heavily loaded teams, some with as much as 12, or 15, hundred feet of hardwood, or 2½ to 3 cords of hemlock bark.

Jan. 19, 1882. It is estimated that about 2000 cords of hemlock bark will be drawn this year from the Pittsfield area.

Jan. 18, 1883. Drovers from Rochester, Pittsfield and Stockbridge must drive their sheep and cattle to Bethel on Sundays, because the roads are so full of teams on weekdays. Thirty cords of bark passed through Gaysville within 2 hours Tuesday last.

When, or why, this type of moneymaking activity ended we do not know, but the needs for bark at the Bethel Tannery continued for many years more.

In 1843 David Daley's inventory of his estate lists a cord of hemlock bark valued at $2.25.

CHAMPLAIN REALTY COMPANY

In 1911 the Champlain Realty Company, a subsidiary of the International Paper Company, built a dam on the Tweed River out back of Asa Pinney's (1853) near the junction with the South Hill Road, one of seven dams located on the White River and its tributaries.

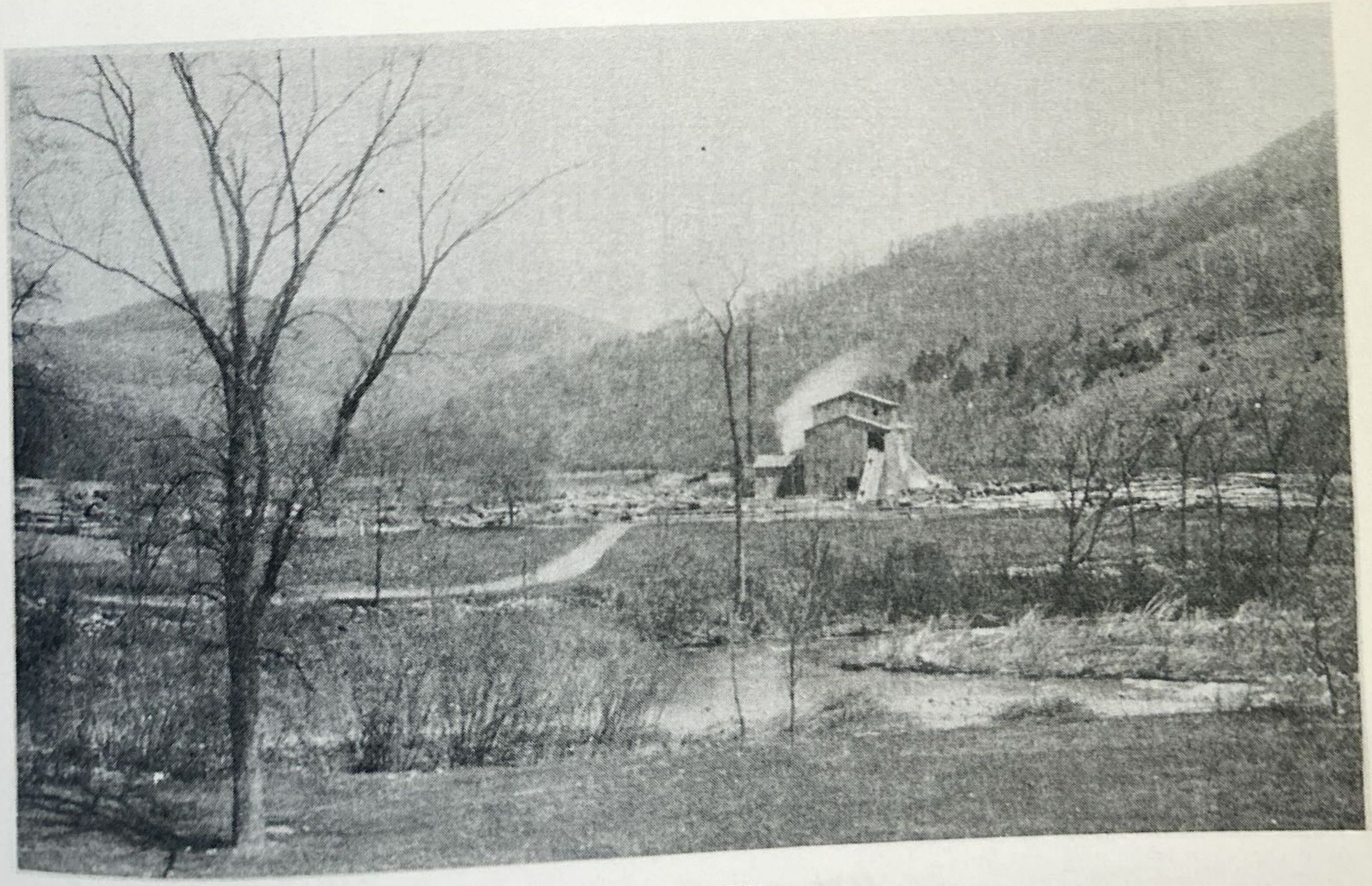
Logs were piled on both sides of the road from the Pinney house to Sidney Stoddard's and along the river banks during the winter. Then in the spring landings were broken down, and ponds filled with logs. When the gates were opened the logs were sluiced downstream to meet those from the upper river at Stockbridge, and joined others in Bethel, en route to Bellows Falls.

It was an exciting time for those on shore watching the nimble workers guiding logs and breaking jams, but for the men themselves, after working a sixteen hour day, warming and drying themselves by an open fire, then piling into bed with their clothes on, it was no picnic. Breakfast was served at 4:30 a.m. Meals were cooked out of doors, beans baked in holes in the ground, until about 1920 when emerged the Mary Ann, a low, four wheeled wagon covered by canvas and carrying two cookstoves. The wagon was hauled by a pair of horses, food cooking as they traveled.

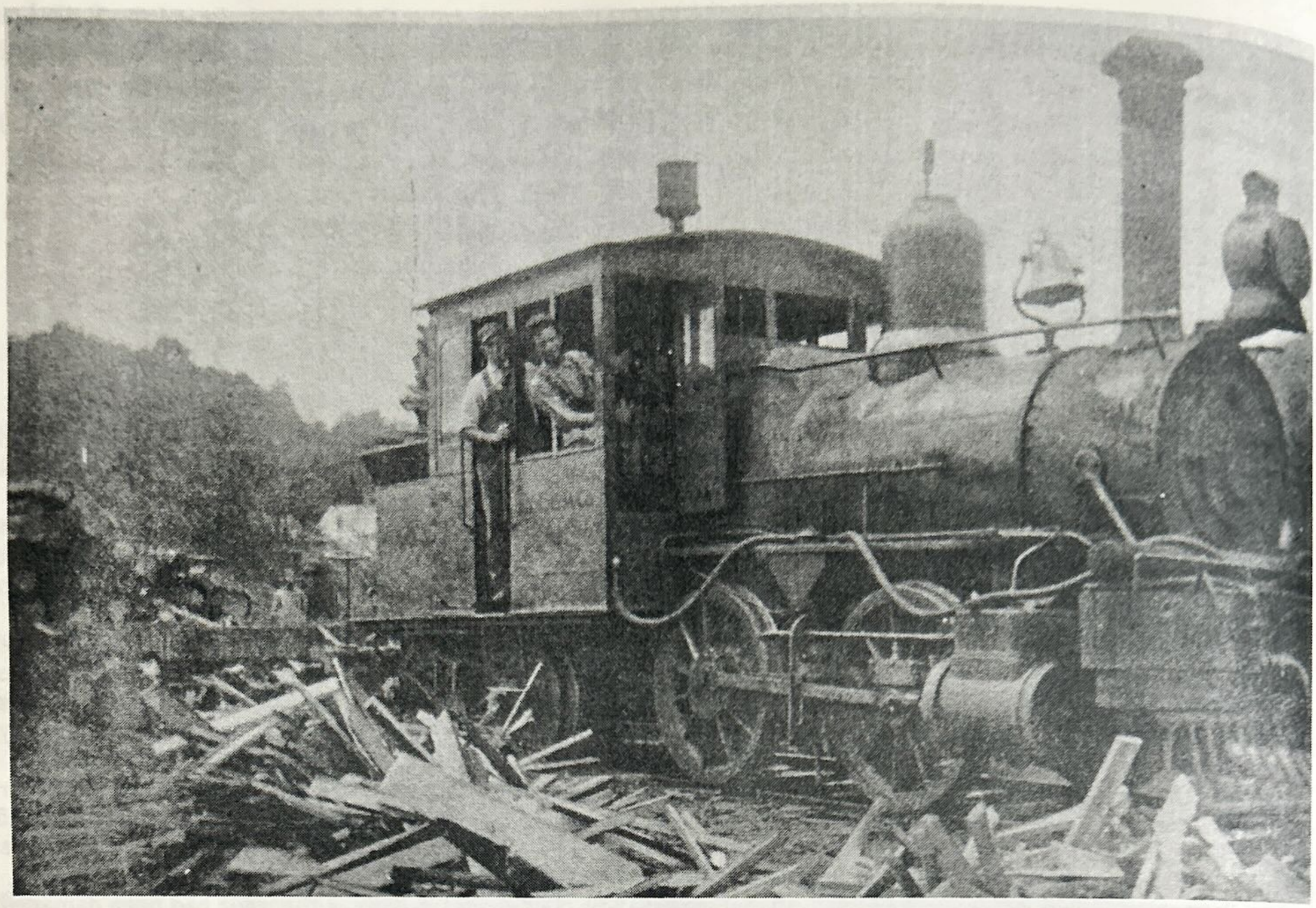
According to Mr. Ed Hutchins, a timekeeper for the Champlain Realty Company, "We paid 4 to 6 cents a quart for milk; beans $3 for 100 pound bag; beef by the side, or quarter 9 cents a pound; pork $4 to $6 a barrell. Eggs were 15 cents a dozen; molasses 35 to 50 cents a gallon. Good whiskey was $1.25 per quart, and the men would trade cant dogs for hard cider if they did not have 25 cents for a gallon."

May Parmenter's diary entry for April 5, 1912 states that their land along the bank of the river had been damaged by the Champlain Realty log drive. The company later settled with the Parmenters for the loss.

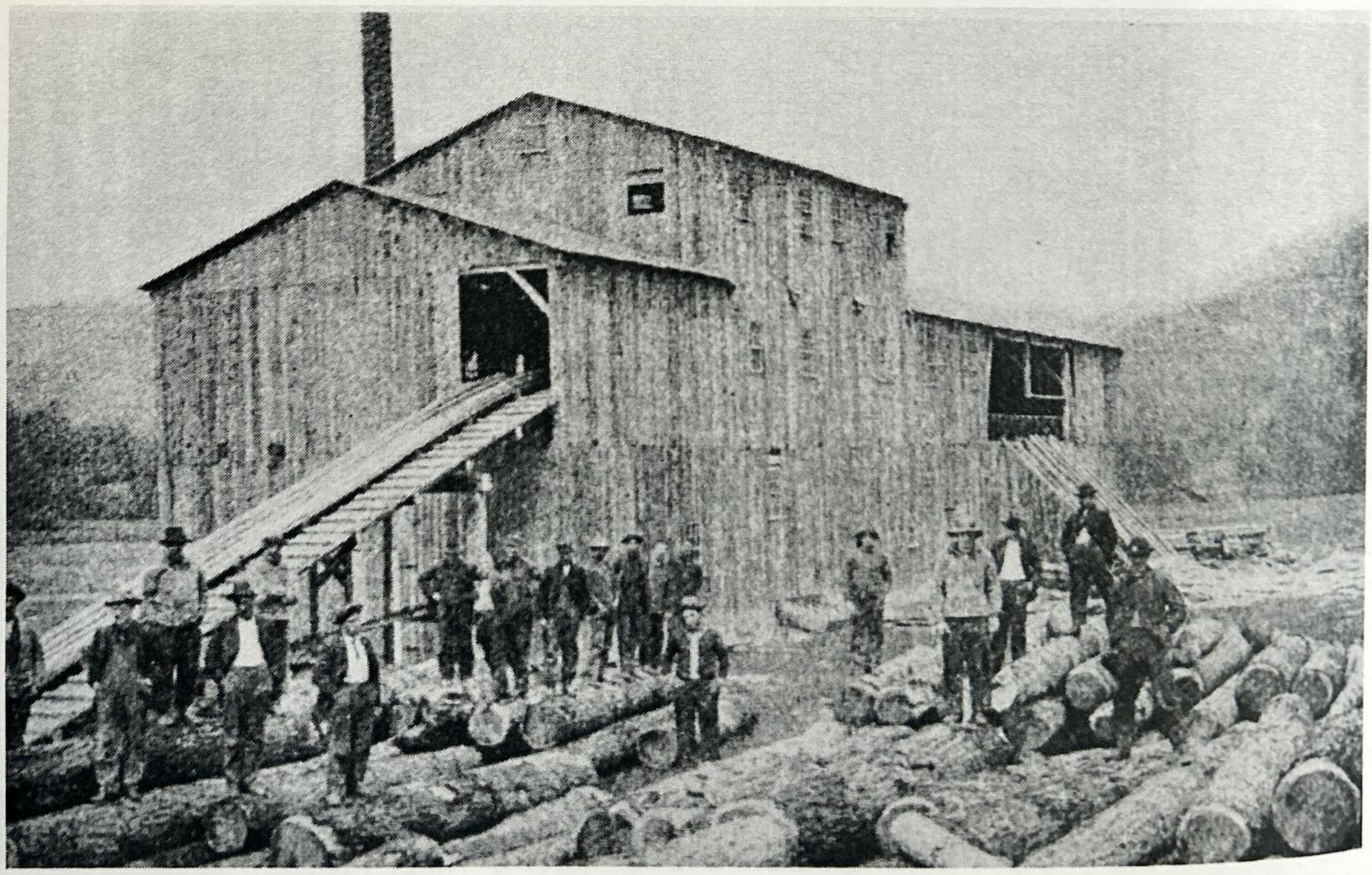
No log drives were held after 1926. As a matter of fact, the 1927 flood washed out those dams as well as many others.



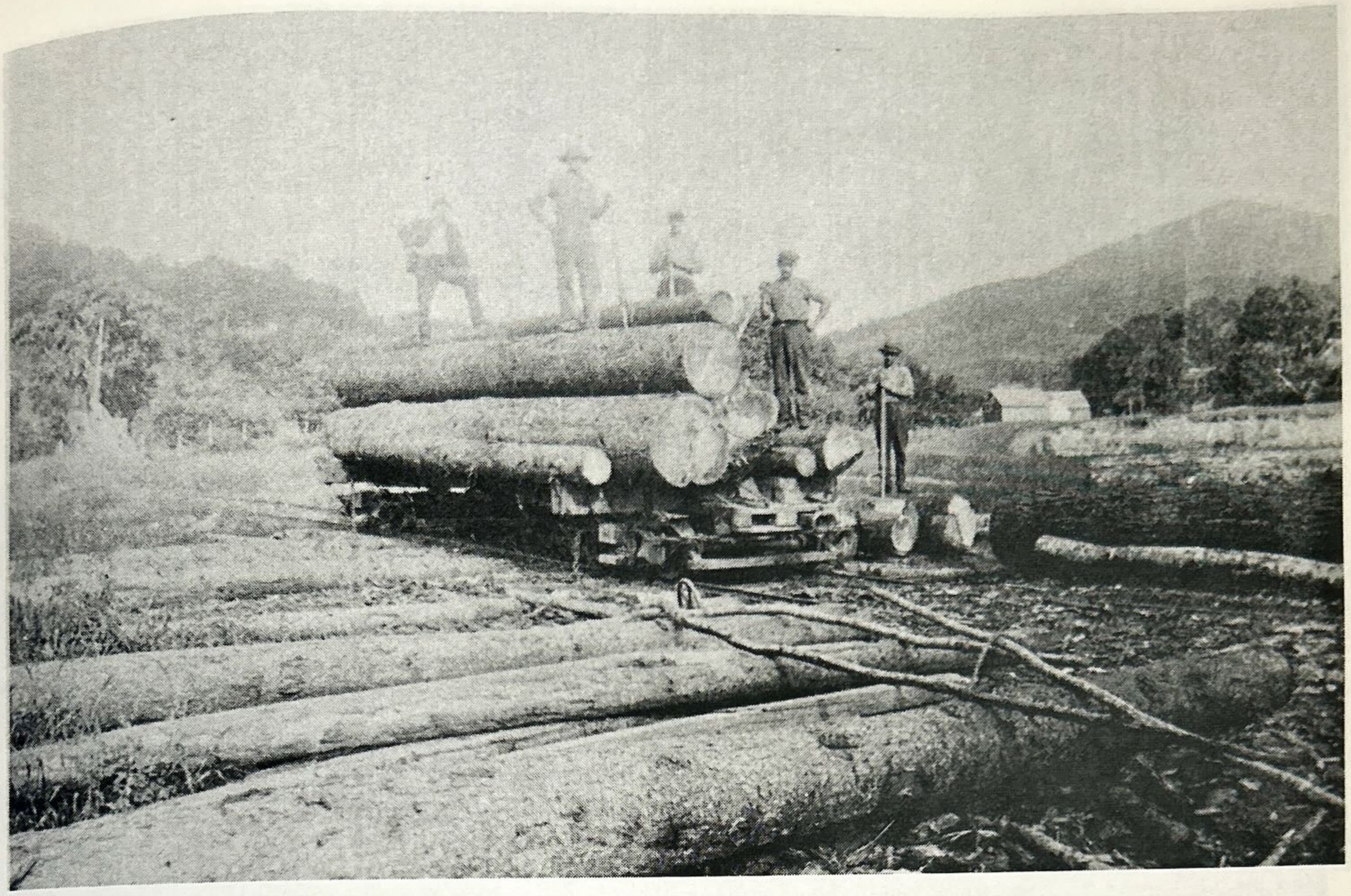
Bayonne Mill



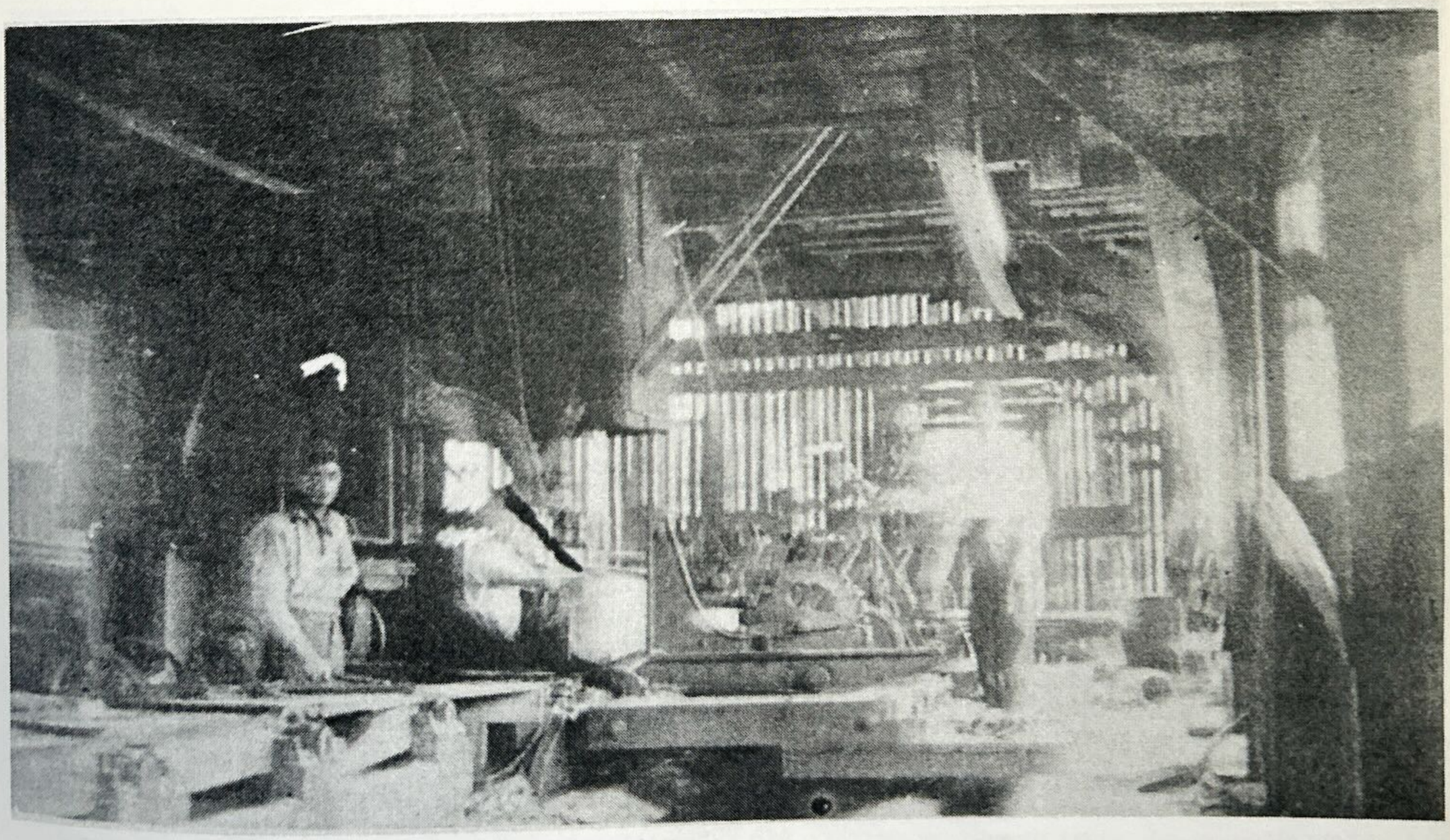
Engine that took logs from the Bayonne Mill to Stockbridge.



Bayonne Mill.



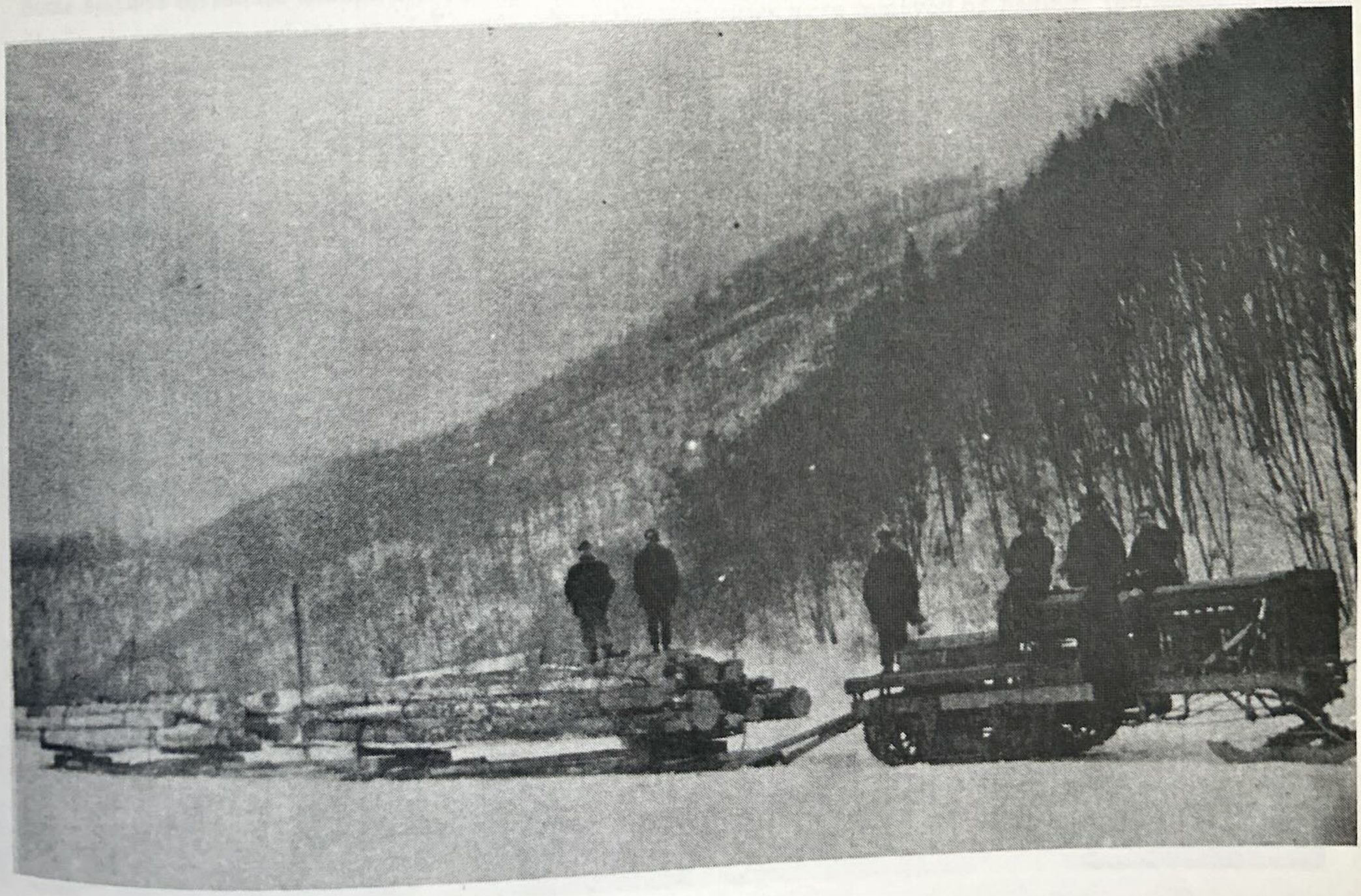
Logging at Bayonne.



View inside Bayonne Mill.

Champlain Realty Log Drive

Mechanized Logging.



Sleds used for hauling logs about 1920.

Dailey Parmenter and his one horse oat burner sawing wood.

Cutting Last Blocks at Breed's. Site of present Schuster house on Lower Michigan Road.

GRANITE

Granite was quarried in the Liberty Hill section of town for a brief period around 1909. Shipping sheds were set up on the railroad in the valley, near the bridge by the present John Hunt farm in Rochester. A contract for granite for a building at Dartmouth College seemed to promise success in this project. Soon after, the quality was found to be poor, so the project was abandoned.

SOAPSTONE

A soapstone quarry was opened up in 1889 on the Charles Allen farm, the old Stephen Holt place, in the Mayo Hill area. Sheds for shipping were built on the Durkee farm in Stockbridge. Soapstone was used for stoves and foot warmers, because of its ability to hold heat. Pieces of soapstone in convenient sizes and shapes, were heated, wrapped with several thicknesses of woolen material, and carried while traveling, to keep the hands and feet warm. Another very common use was to wrap the heated stone in woolen cloth, to help warm the cold beds.

BLACK SALTS

There were at least three asheries in town. Prior to his death in 1818 Asa Gains ran the first ashery (Giorgetti, 1976); Jonas Stone (G. Amee, 1976) was next, and in 1831 another was built near the mills behind what was later Morrill's store, near the bridge. Probably to these asheries were brought by the individual settler, and used as legal tender, ashes left after "burning over" a piece of land when clearing it or in some cases, from trees burned solely for the ashes. Prices ranged, depending on the source, from 6 to 13 cents per bushel, which would produce from 6 to 8 pounds of black salts, worth 3 to 5 cents per pound.

At the ashery leach tubs were filled with ashes, then water was poured over them and allowed to seep very slowly into troughs below, producing lye. This lye was "boiled down" to a dark, hard brittle mass, the process not unlike that of producing maple sugar from sap. Care must be taken to see that they did not burn, or cook enough to adhere permanently to the kettle.

Some settlers fortunate enough to own a kettle often made their own black salts, as they cleared their land.

The black salts were put into special ovens where the impurities were removed by baking - the resulting product pearlash, or potash, white, crumbly chunks which was shipped in barrels to Boston, or Montreal, for reshipment to England, where it was used for finishing woolen cloth. At its height this business was producing one and one half million dollars annually for Vermonters, but lost out when chemists found that sodium from German salt mines was as effective and much cheaper.

In some large towns pearlash was further refined, by a more complicated method, to become saleratus, or baking soda, used by housewives in cooking.

How much, if any, of the local potash was used in town, we cannot say. An 1840 Census report shows one fulling mill in town, but we have yet to learn its location. Fulling is the process of cleaning the grease and oil from wool, or cloth. It makes woolen goods firmer and stonger, lessens the tendency of cloth to ravel, but does result in shrinkage, in both length and width.

The inventory of Asa Gain's in 1818 showed forty-three bushels of ashes listed at $7.17 and potash kettle and cover at $30.

The ashery on Jonas Stone's farm was sold by Isaac Eddy to David Stone in 1809 for $300, quite a tidy sum for those days, which indicates just how valuable these asheries were.

DISTILLERIES

As the potash market faded the distillery business took its place. Whiskey could be shipped as easily as potash, and in addition, there was a ready local market. Potatoes and later, corn and rye were made into whiskey while cider, to make it more potent, became "apple jack", or apple brandy.

In 1817 an investigation by the state Legislature showed the annual consumption of intoxicating liquors amounted to well over a million dollars, and unlimited quantities were available at a very low price. The Temperance movement began about 1820, and finally brought about the closing of local distilleries. For a time starch production took over the use of potatoes, but that, too, disappeared.

Jonas Stone had a distillery, but we have not learned how long it operated. Demand for spirits must have continued, because in 1853 a license was granted to John Rockwell to "retail and sell intoxicating liquors at his residence, for medicinal, chemical, or mechanical purposes, only.....providing that he sells no more than 2 quarts to any one person at any one time."

From 1847 through 1850 Walton's REGISTERS list Durkee and Townsend as manufacturers of starch.

HOP GROWING

After the closing of local distilleries hop-growing became important, with the demand for hops increasing until the 1890's, when Western competition took over the market.

Picking of hops began in September before the frosts hit. They were taken to the hop house and dried on racks with screened bottoms, and must be dried quickly to prevent "heating". By placing the racks over charcoal pits or by using stoves, it was possible to dry the hops over night.

Besides being used by breweries hops were used in making yeast for bread, so enough were kept for home-consumption.

In 1874 Reuben Geurnsey sold his hop house, presumably in Guernsey Hollow, to Norman Durkee. Boundaries are very vague, "Beginning in the center of the brook, east 3 rds 3 ft to north east corner of hop house....."

BENJAMIN LEWIS'S COOPERAGE

In 1839 Benjamin Lewis bought the Hayden and June store, maintaining a cooperage there for many years. On the 1853 map it is Benjamin Lewis and in 1869 Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Flanders. Two sections of this building were moved a little north where they stand today as the second house south of the cemetery. The third section, known as the old Severance place, has been torn down. Firkins, barrels and sap spiles were some of Mr. Lewis's wares. Dawn Hance of Rutland has in her possession an old ox blood firkin which he made. The initials B.L. are burned into the top.

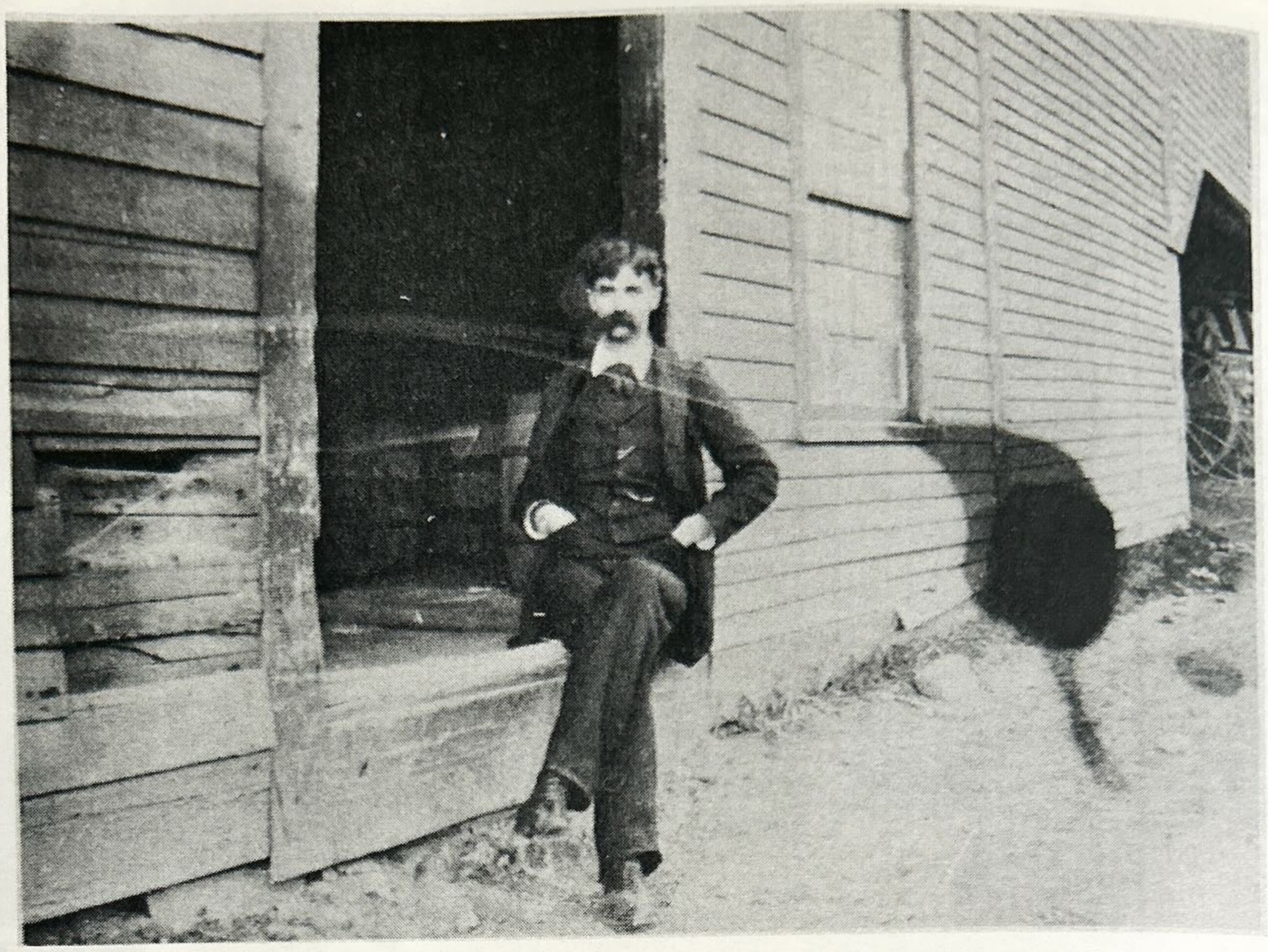
DAVID DALEY'S TANNERY

David Daley came to Pittsfield in 1789 from Windham, Connecticut. He operated a tannery, reported to be the only one ever in town, until his death at the age of seventy-five in 1842. The Vermont Historical Society Library has several of his old account books beginning in 1803. The exact location of his shop is in doubt. One report states it was near the bridge at Guilford Parmenter's (1869) now the Lawrence Taylor place, and yet another says it was on the site of Henry Adams' blacksmith shop, which was later owned by Stedman Stoddard. One of these accounts also tells us that it was removed from its original site.

There is a tannery listed on the 1853 map next to the shop across the road from the Thomas Chamberlain house. In 1869 it merely has the initials A.V. which must stand for A. Vose. However, this is probably where it stood after its removal if it is the old Daley tannery. A later picture of this shop featured in this book is entitled the carriage paint shop. The carriages were brought up the ramp to the top floor where they were painted. Cleone Townsend tells us that she can remember the interior walls had some sort of pictures or designs painted on the plaster. Also note the old windows.

Carriage paint shop of Walter Parmenter, near Harold Taylor's. Is this Daley's old tannery, 1853, 1869 A. Vose.

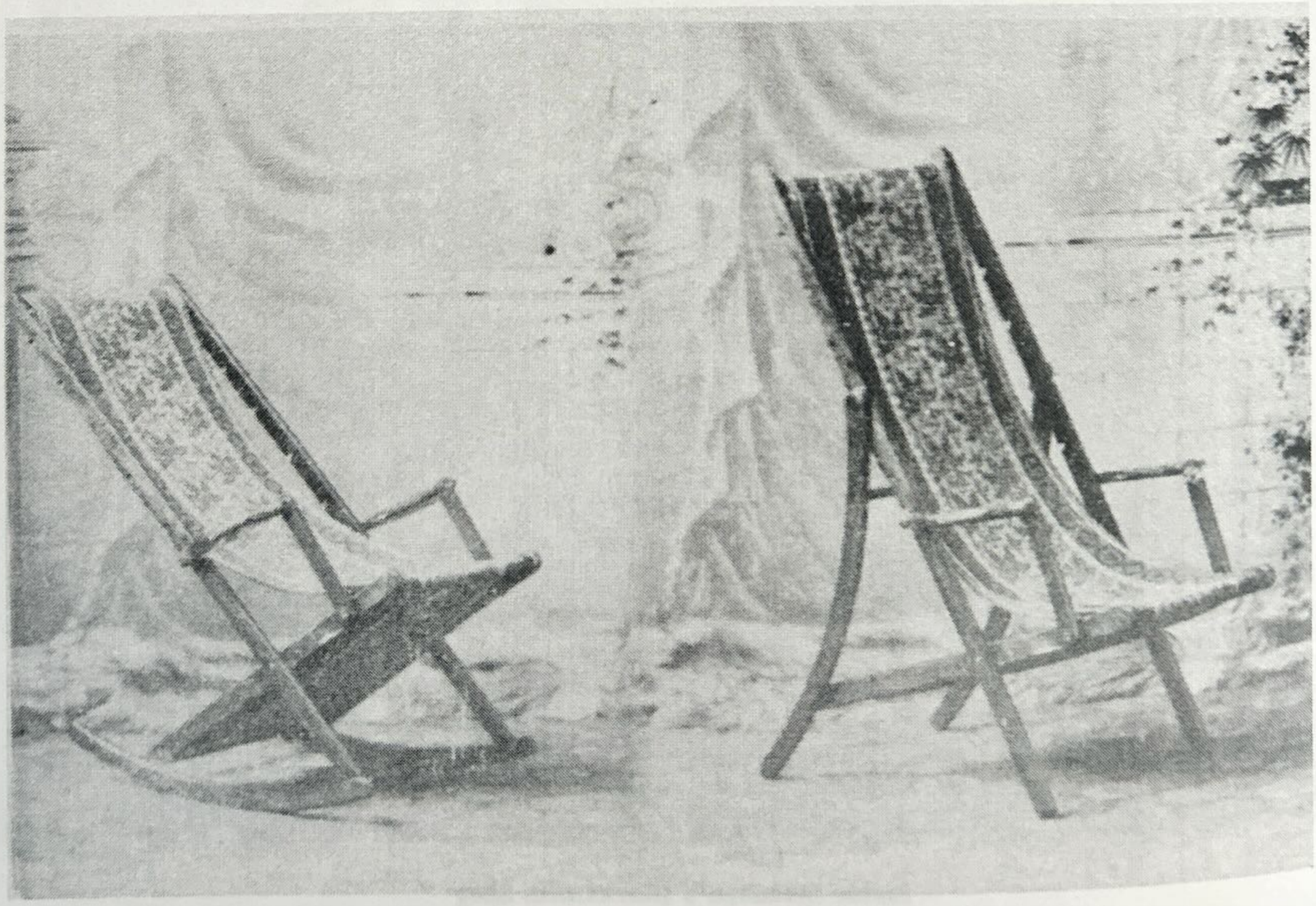
Inside Stoddard's Blacksmith Shop

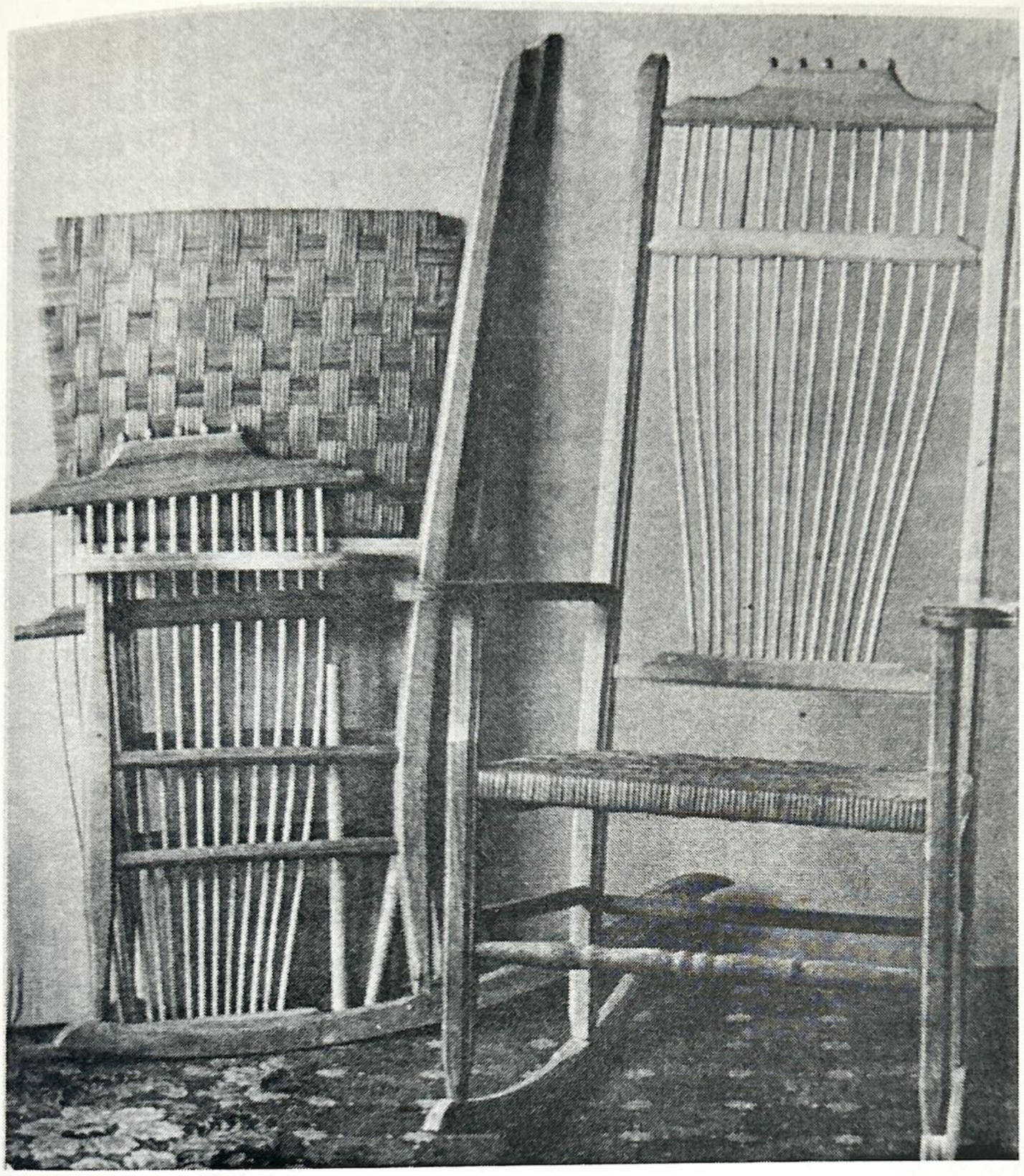


Charles Avery at the Chair Factory. Located in Guernsey Hollow, with a blacksmith shop and gristmill nearby and operated by Ransom and Amos Guernsey, where they manufactured wagons and carriages as late as 1881.

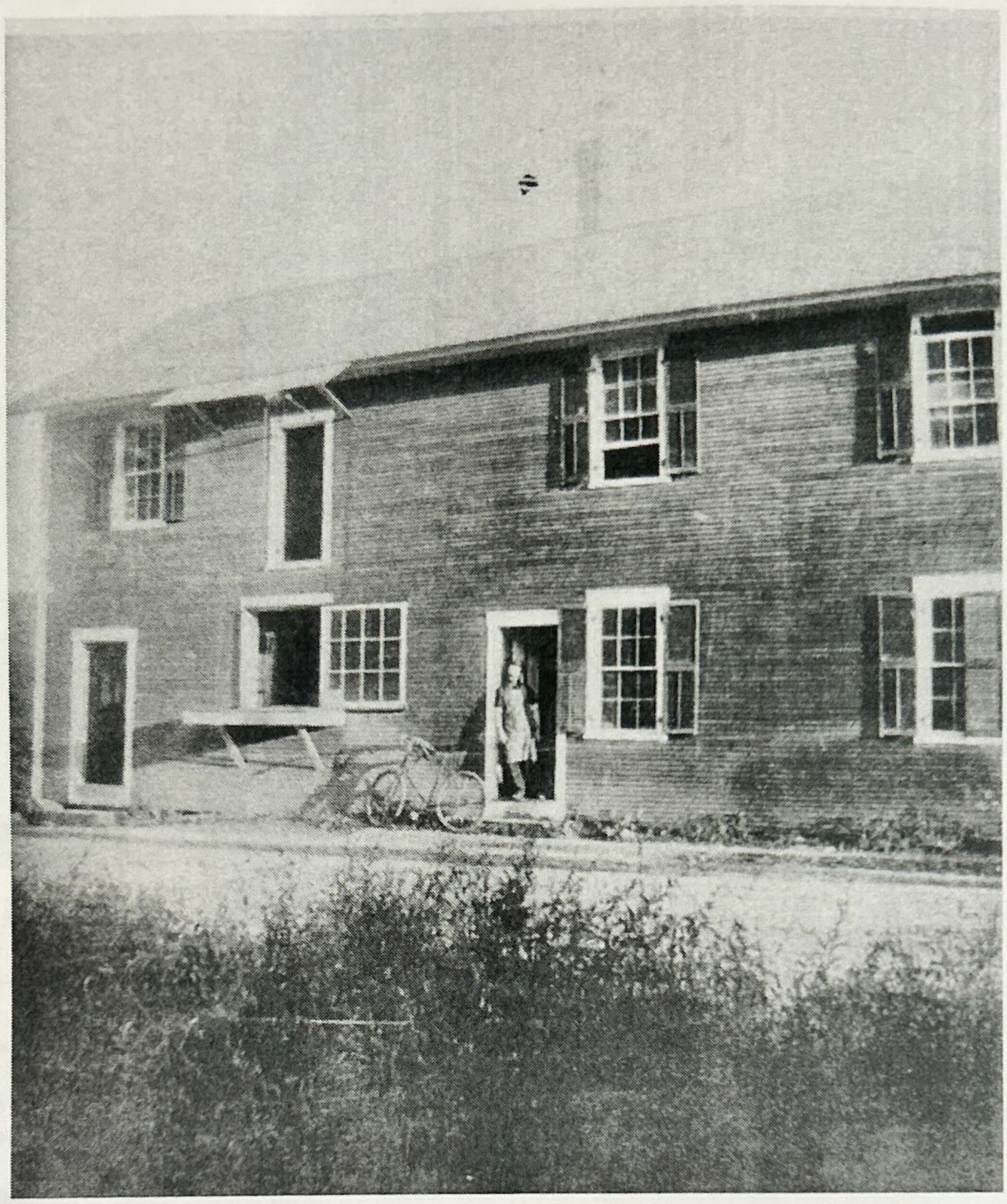
Here, also was Ray Durkee's Button Factory, operated by steam, and employing 15 men. In 1886 he was producing 100 gross of ivory and bone buttons daily, as well as doing general machine work.

In 1893 Albert Vose and Charles Avery began making a large variety of chairs, the caning and painting of which were "let out" to be done by people in the community.





Avery and Vose Chairs.



Cheese Factory - deeded by Jonathan and Lucy Ranney to the Directors of the Cheese Factory, a stock company with 800 shares. Located on the south side of the road, 20 rods north from Ranney's dwelling (Joe Fuster, 1976). Cheese making began May 12, 1890.

ODD, QUAINT AND CURIOUS

ODD, QUAINT AND CURIOUS

Moses Townsend who lived on Tozier Hill road decided to make his fortune raising hogs. He turned one thousand hogs loose in his potato patch and let them dig their own dinner.

Josiah Holt went down cellar to draw a pitcher of cider when his candle went out and he fell, letting out a roar. His wife, on hearing the commotion, called down, "Josiah, did you break the pitcher?" "No," he cried, "but by Gad I will." And with that he flung the pitcher against the cellar wall.

In his old age Stephen Holt's brother in Connecticut died leaving him seven thousand dollars. So off went "Governor Holt" to collect his money. The only precaution he took in guarding his gold which lay in a bag in the bottom of his wagon ,was to throw his saddle over it at night.

David Daley and David Waller set out on foot to buy a grindstone at Pittsford. On their way they secured their food, done up in a handkerchief, to a tree. At Pittsford they bought a hundred pound grindstone with attached crankshaft and proceeded home. At first they tried to carry it by the crank, but that didn't work so they broke the crank off and threw it away. Then they decided to put a stick through the center, but Waller was tall and Daley short so the grindstone kept slipping toward Daley. On reaching the spot where they had left their lunch, they found that some animal had eaten all but a few crusts which the hungry men readily devoured and plodded on towards home.

Women's Lib was at an all time low in 1847 for at School No. 5 a male teacher received three dollars and fifty cents a week for twelve weeks, and a female teacher one dollar per week for the same period!

In the cemetery stands this marker "Jack York, a colored person who died at Pittsfield, August 1874, aged about eighty-five. He was born a slave in Salem, New York and came to Pittsfield in 1820, where he was always ready to shake hands with all." He didn't know his last name so took the name of his native state. His home was a log cabin located on Lower Michigan Road.

In at least one case the cemetery was used as a resting place for other than humans for one stone has the inscription "My Pet Bird".

Other than land and livestock there were two other taxable items in 1820 which we take very much for granted today. They were clocks and silver watches, possessions which were scarce and considered a luxury.

Charles Austin Thomas was a trader who bought and sold horses, sheep and cattle. In his large barns was room for plenty of hay for the animals needing shelter; on the mountain behind his farm he had, at times, several thousand sheep.

He used to hire men to drive his livestock "on the hoof" to the Boston Market, a distance of more than one hundred and fifty miles. When driving pigs, we are told, their eyes were sewed closed to keep them from wandering off the road.

At times Mr. Thomas carried in his possession a thousand or more dollars. Fearing highway robbery, according to an account by his daughter Zilpha Segur, whenever he went to Rutland, Boston, or some other place, selling land or cattle, he always carried a couple of rolls of binder twine in his wagon. After being paid he would go to his room, and wind the binder twine around his wallet. When ready to depart he would toss the roll of twine into the wagon, with purchases he had made, presumably for his wife. Even after he arrived home his secret was kept, for if there were guests he merely unloaded his purchases on to the front lawn, and waited until the guests had departed to unwind the twine.

On August 8, 1894, May Parmenter records this event in her diary, "On way back from Pembers the sky looked very strange. Called Yellow Day." These eerie occurrences happened from time to time probably due to smoke from distant forest fires screening the sun. However, at that time they were little understood, causing much apprehension and fear.

SHEPHERDSON INQUEST

A couple of years previous to his death Daniel Shepardson moved from Guilford, Vermont to Pittsfield where he located on the site of the Ranney Hotel. The following is an inquest into his death held at Pittsfield in 1794.

"To Thos Hodgkins Esqr We a Jury of Enquist upon the Body of Daniel Shepperson have made Diligent Inquirry and Examenation into the Cause of his Death; and we are of the opinion that he Froze to Death; and this verdict we present under our hands upon oath-------Pittsfield Feb 2, 1794

Asa Whitcom
Isaac Johnson
Ebenr Call
Jedidiah Chamberlain
Elihu Holland
Daniel Adkins
Paul Whitcomb
Joel Northum
Charles French
Daniel Young
Jessiah Stockwel
Elias Keyes"

To Thos Hodskins Esqr Sheriff

Enquest upon the Body of Daniel Shepherd

have made Diligent Inquiry and Examination

into the Cause of his Death, and we are of

opinion that he Came to Death, and

this Verdict we present under our hands

upon oath

Sheffield Feb.y 2d 1794

1794

Agur Whitcom

Isaac Johnson

Elem Call

Josiah Chamberlain

Elihu Hotchkiss

Daniel Adkins

Paul Wheldon

Joel Northrop

Chas Sherrell

Daniel Hoag

Jesse Stockwell

Elias Keyes

U S Congressional

The following toasts were copied from the original diary of Samuel Beach, county surveyor, which was kept while he was surveying lines for the township of Pittsfield in 1782. Evidently the surveyors had gathered for dinner at Durkee's camp in Pittsfield. The toasts are interesting because of their quaint style.

"At Durkee's Camp Oct. 16, 1782

Taking into Consideration the ever Memorable capture of a large British army under the command of an Experienced officer (viz) Charles Earl of Cornwallis (under Heaven) by the Allyed Armeys of france & America Commanded by her illustious Hero George Washington, Esq. After dinner the following toasts were Drank: 1st to Congress; 2nd to his Excellency General Washington forever; 3rd Success to our Allyes; 4th a Speedy downfall to British Tyranny; 5th the independence of America triumphant; 6th in Commemoration of our illustrious heroes that fell in Defense of their Country; 7th May the sun never rise on America without success to her arms; 8th May we never forget the capture of two British Armies; 9th May the 16th of October be crowned with Equal Success to the two days preceding; 10th May we never change our sentiments until peace is proclaimed; 11th a Speedy end to the war; 12th To Absent friends; 13th a universal peace throughout the Whole World; 14th Vermont in Union. Samuel Beach"

"Durkee's Camp in Pittsfield November 10th, 1782.

Received of Joseph Durkee the sum of One Pound 8 Shillings LM in part pay for Surveying township of Pittsfield Received pm

Samuel Beach County Surveyor"

The above are copies of material found in the Vermont Historical Society Library.

Durkees Camp oct 6th 1782

taking into Consideration the Ever
Memorable Capture of a Large
British Army under the Command
of an Experienced officer (viz)
Charles Earl of Cornwallis (under
Heaven) by the Allyed Armeys of France
and ~~America~~ Commanded by the
illustrious Heroe George Washington
Esqr after Dinner the following toasts
were Drank 1st to Congress 2d to
his Excellency General Washington
forever 3d Success to our Allyes 4th
and downfall to British Tyrany &
the independance of America tirum
phant 6th ~~Destruction~~ illustrious in Commemo
ration of over heroes that fell in
Defence in Defence of their Country
7th May the Sun Never Rise on
America without Rays of Success to her arms &
May we never forget the Captivity
of two British Armies 9 May the
8th of oct be Crowned with Equal
Success to the two Days preceeding
10 May we never Change our Sentiments
=ments until ~~the Brit~~ Peace is Proclaimed 11 ~~may~~ a Speedy End to the
War 12 to Absent friends 13 An univer
=sal peace through the Whole World
14 Vermont in union

S B

Durkees Camp in pittsfield Novem.
10th 1782 Received of Joseph Durkee
the Sum of one pound & Eight Shillings
L. M. in part pay for Surveying the
townships of pittsfield Received pr

Samuel Beach County
Surveyor

DISASTERS

DISASTERS

Fires have taken their toll in Pittsfield, and whether from lightning, overheated chimneys, spontaneous combustion, or human carelessness, only the bucket brigade has, in many cases, saved nearby buildings. Pity the family on an isolated farm when fire broke out, with no fire department, no telephone and no close neighbors to help. Only a well, which was soon pumped dry, could be counted on for help.

Diaries indicate that floods in 1889 and 1913 had caused much damage in the area. In 1938 a hurricane and flood wreaked its fury in the Hollow, slight compared to that in other sections of the state, especially the southeastern part. Hemmed in by mountains, Pittsfield escaped the high winds of November 1950 which toppled barns, houses and trees in the western part of the state.

No damage occurred here on November 18, 1929, when an earthquake was felt. It was later found to have been centered on the Grand Banks in Newfoundland; was felt as far south as New York City, and disrupted the Atlantic cable.

1927 FLOOD

In the fall of 1927 Ballard Bridge (now Deer Brook Lodge) Dr. Ranney's then, was being replaced with a new structure, scheduled to be opened to traffic on November 9th, traffic having been detoured over a temporary bridge, a bit to the east. October had been very wet, with a rainfall 50% above average. Rain fell steadily during most of the day November 2, but the weather report for the 3rd was "fair and colder". Instead, there was a steady downpour. Every brook became swollen; rivers became torrents carrying trees, rocks, buildings and bridges — everything that was in their paths was swept away.

About 11:00 a.m. the temporary bridge near Ranney's was washed away, but no worry!, the new bridge would be opened to traffic. Less than 2 hours later that, too, was lost.

When the W.K. Barrow's dam on the West Branch from Michigan gave way, meadows and the road below were covered with huge stones, trees, gravel and other debris. The bridge in the Hollow, protected by the Blacksmith Shop and the already vacated Morrill's store building, remained, as did the one at the Stockbridge line. The loss of the covered bridge in Stockbridge (near Ketchum's) shut off travel beyond, in that direction. Telephone service was completely disrupted.

As houses became surrounded by water families left their homes, none of which was lost. On Thursday, November 3, Mr. and Mrs. Charles French finally agreed to evacuate their home (Durward Andrews). A truck backed as near as possible to the house and a rope was thrown to Mr. French. Tying the rope around his body he took his wife in his arms and started wading toward the truck. Unknown to anyone, and not apparent in the high water, a whirlpool had formed as water circled a nearby tree, making a deep hole. When Mr. French stepped into the hole he lost his hold on his wife. Mrs. French was swept downstream in the rushing current, as the men stood by, helpless to rescue her. Her body was recovered the following day at a barrier of debris near Daly Bend.

The highway over Mendon Mountain became a raging torrent and the Wheelerville Bridge with sections of the road below simply vanished. Pittsfield was isolated. It was many months before roads and bridges were restored, but vestiges of the flood could be seen for years.

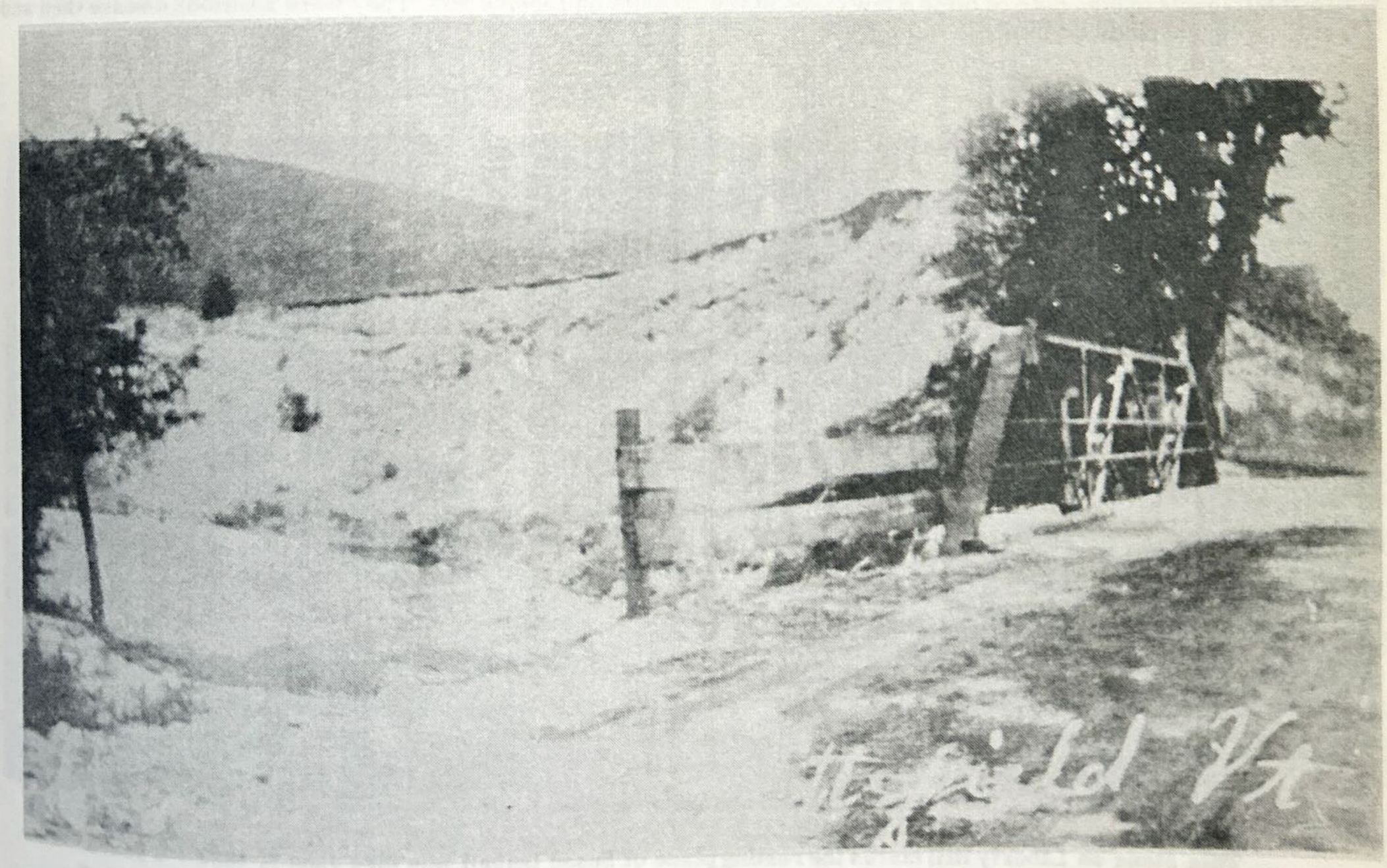
Pittsfield Dam in Flood.

Flood scene taken from May Parmenter's (Dick Fifield 1976) looking toward Route 100 and showing part of the present Laffan house.

Flood scene with Lawrence Taylor's house in the background.

Hurricane and Flood Damage in the Hollow.

Damage in Hollow after 1938 Hurricane and Flood.



Ballard Bridge

1800 AND FROZE TO DEATH

During the War of 1812 wheat was selling for three dollars a bushel, and for a time the farmers of Vermont were prospering, but then along came 1816 which brought a disastrous crop failure. On June 8 of that year a foot of snow fell which was followed by frost every month as well as drought. Sheep had already been shorn, and in order to protect these animals from the cold, the fleeces were bound around their bodies. Trees lost their leaves, livestock perished, and most important for those dependant on the land, almost nothing grew.

People were eating boiled nettles, clover heads, hedgehogs, and anything else they could get their hands on. What flour there was came from Troy, New York and Montreal selling for fifteen to seventeen dollars a barrel. In order to supplement their scant flour supply housewives made their bread from a mixture of mashed potatoes and cornmeals or flour if they had it.

The next spring seed was so scarce and expensive that many a family sold some of their dearest possessions in order to pay for it. However, for some the bitter memories of hard times were laid to rest the following year when crops, especially wheat, flourished and the harvest bountiful. Others, fearing that it could happen again, left their farms in Vermont for more promising lands, many going on to Ohio. The year 1816 had taken its toll.

EPIDEMICS

As if the early settlers did not have it hard enought trying to eke out a living, they were constantly being faced with sickness, drought, floods, frosts and fires. Life was difficult and often short.

The year 1803 brought dysentery to Pittsfield and a number of children died as the result. During the War of 1812 soldiers quartered at Burlington started spotted fever. By March 1813 lung fever and spotted fever were raging throughout the state more often causing death to adults than to children. Consumption, now known as tuberculosis, scarlet fever, typhoid and diphtheria were often fatal.

Susan Colton, later Mrs. Dailey Parmenter, was teaching school on Liberty Hill when she wrote the following entries in her diary:

"June 3, 1864 — Emily caught cold in the rain. Today the Dr. came to see her. She has the diphtheria.

June 29 — Ida was taken sick. Had the Dr. - says she has the diphtheria.

July 1 — Estella was taken sick today.

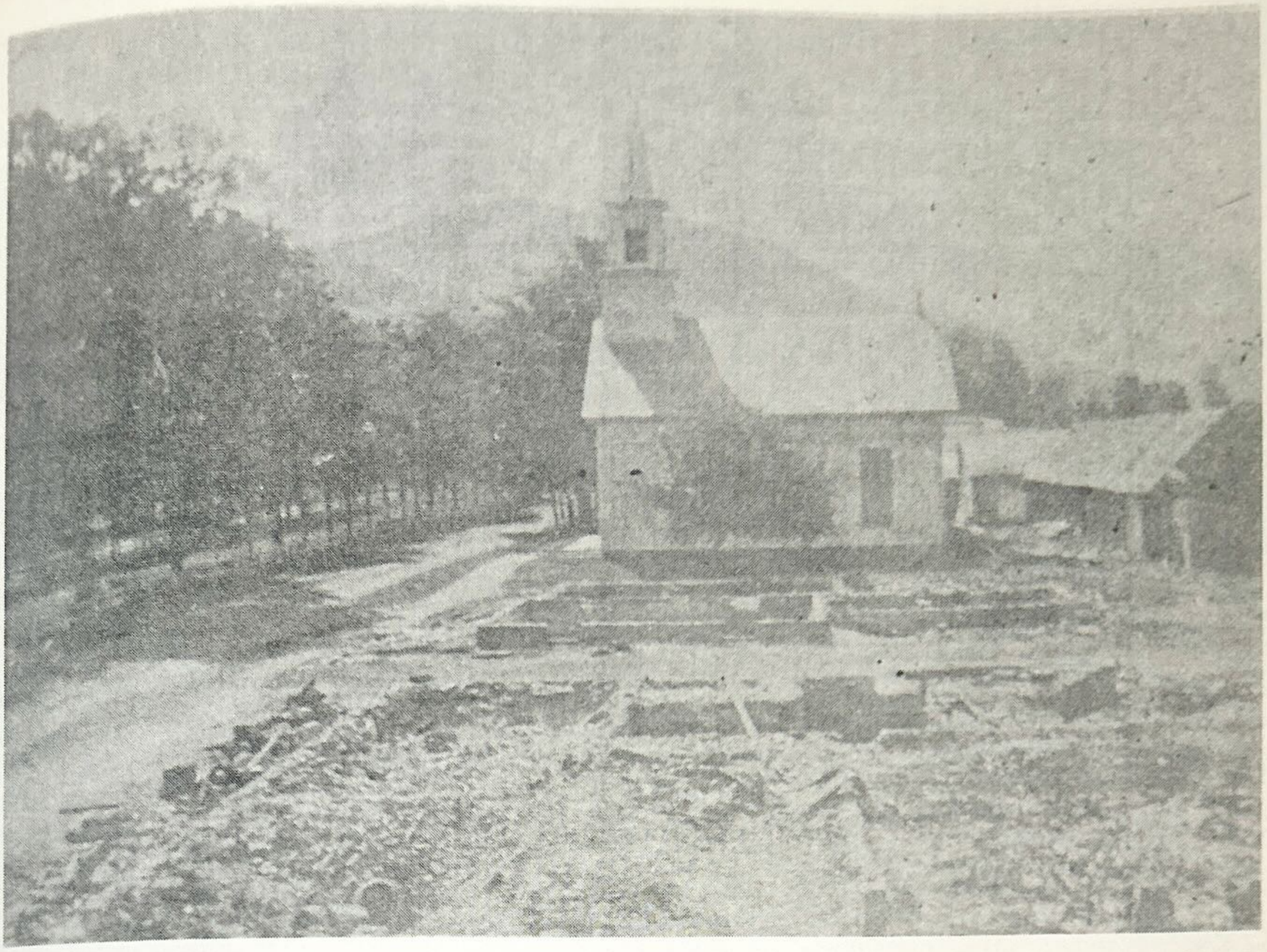
July 2 — It rained so I had only four scholars. Dr. Brigham and Mrs. T. Parmenter visited the school. Frank taken sick.

July 10 — Went up to North Sherburne to a 5 o'clock meeting and heard of Ida and Estella's deaths. They were buried today both in one coffin.

July 24 — I have been over to Truman Parmenter's today. Looks lonesome there." Ida and Estella were his daughters aged nine and seven respectively.

In 1880 census makes note of quite a few cases of the measles on Liberty Hill. They were a serious disease then and complications such as pneumonia often set in.

This stone on Liberty Hill marks the resting place of Susan Isabell who died June 9, 1859 - 4 years and her sister Rosella who died June 6 of the same year - 1 year. They were the children of Azro T. and Marcia Parmenter and it is said the cause of their death was black diphtheria.

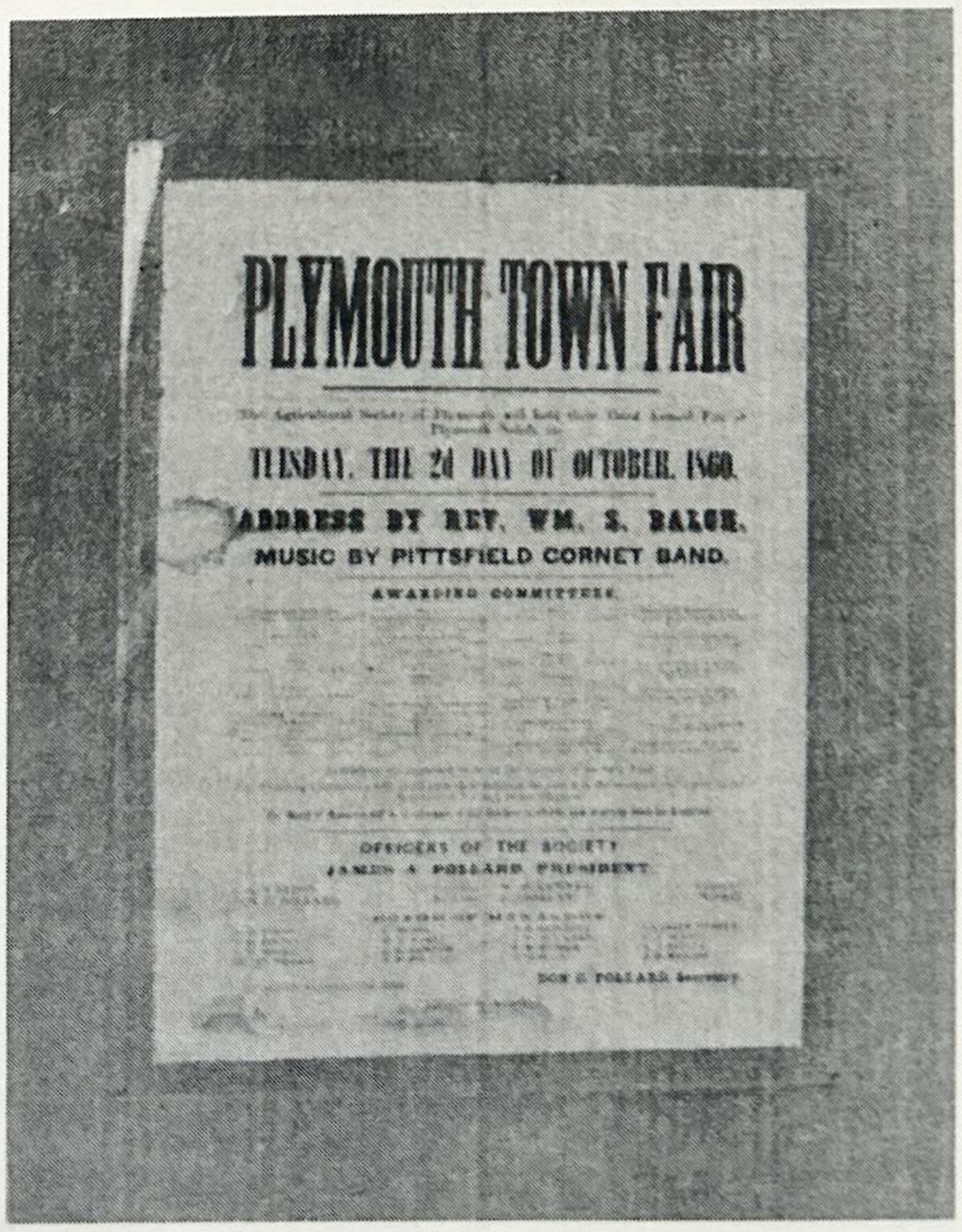


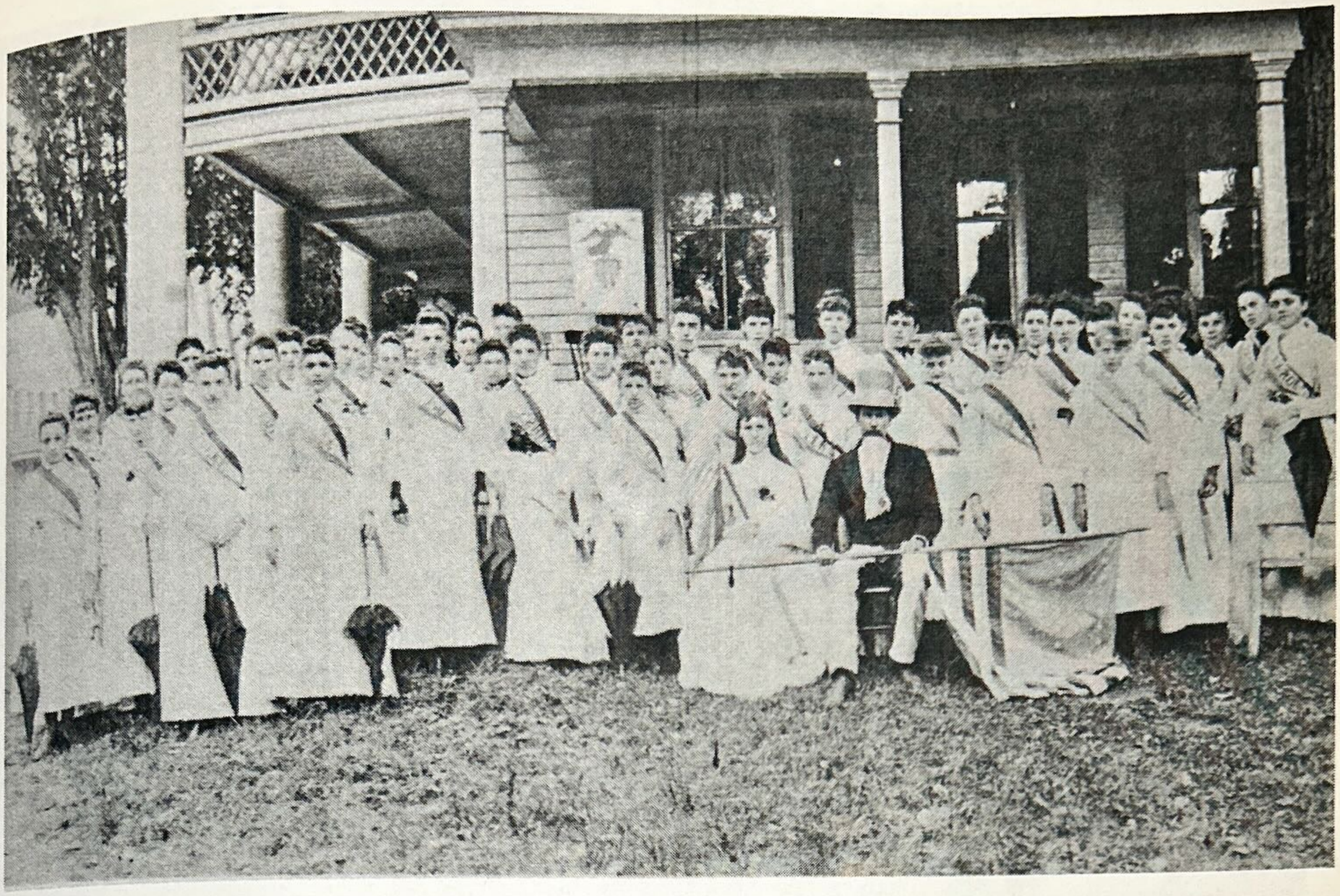
Ruins after 1903 fire looking south from Vose House.

Fire consuming the old Durkee Store, then the Clara Eggleston dwelling, 1938.

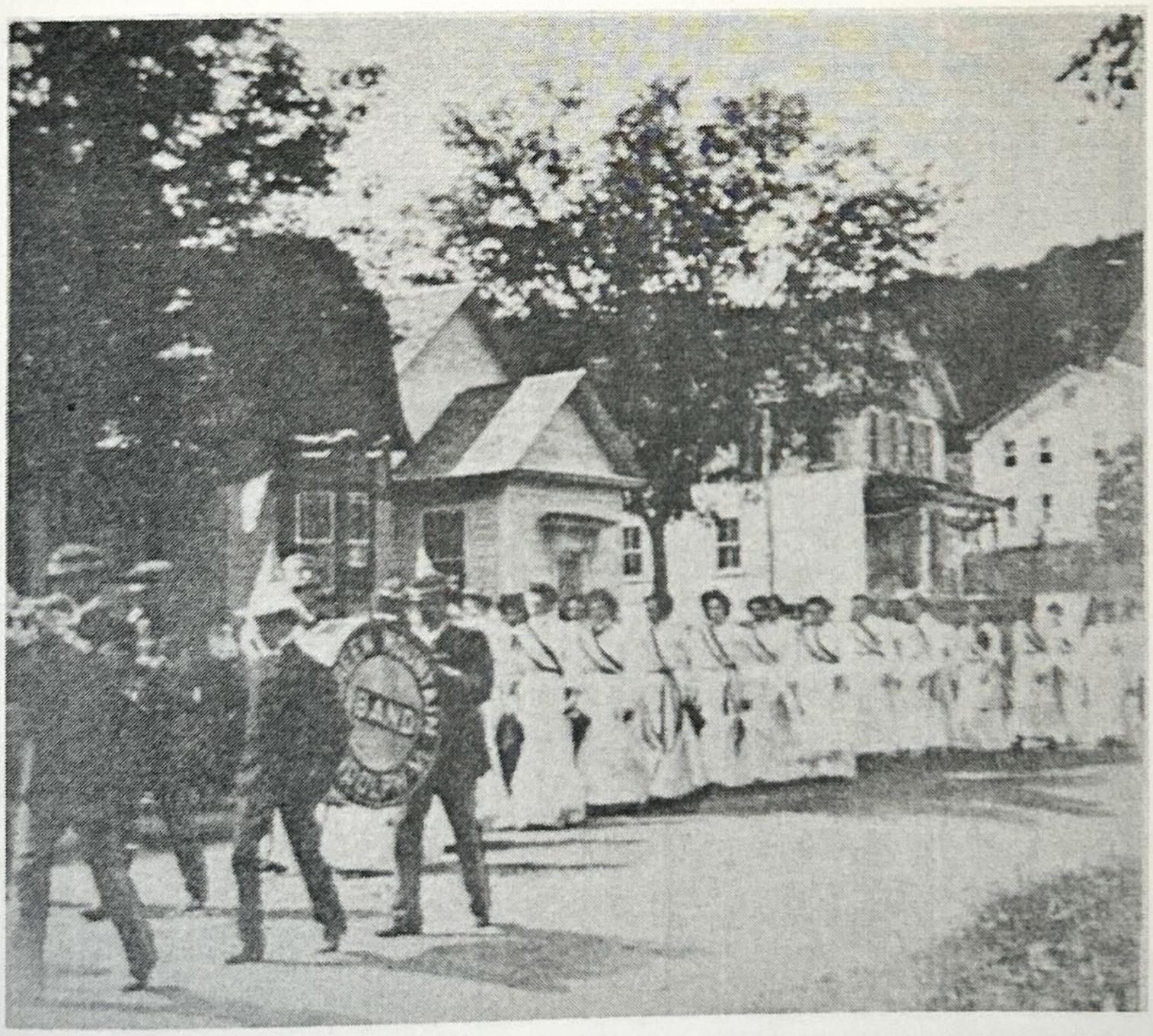
THE LIGHTER SIDE

Pittsfield Band - active between 1850 and 1860. Disbanded because of the Civil War.


PLYMOUTH TOWN FAIR
TUESDAY, THE 2d DAY OF OCTOBER, 1860.
ADDRESS BY REV. WM. S. BALCH.
MUSIC BY PITTSFIELD CORNET BAND.
AWARDING COMMITTEES.
OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY
JAMES A. POLLARD PRESIDENT.



State Ladies July 4, 1890

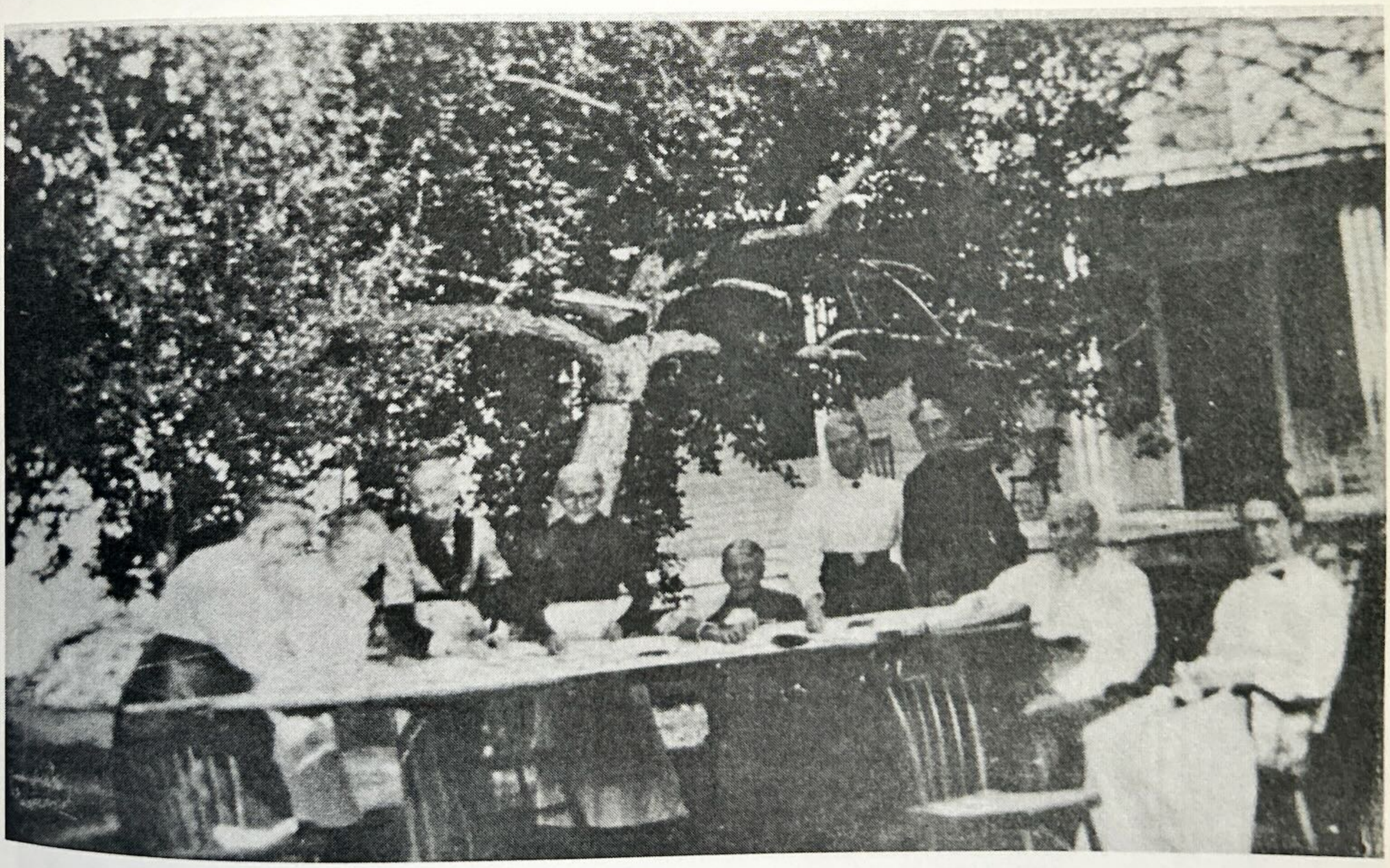


State Ladies Parade 1890.

1890 July 4th celebration

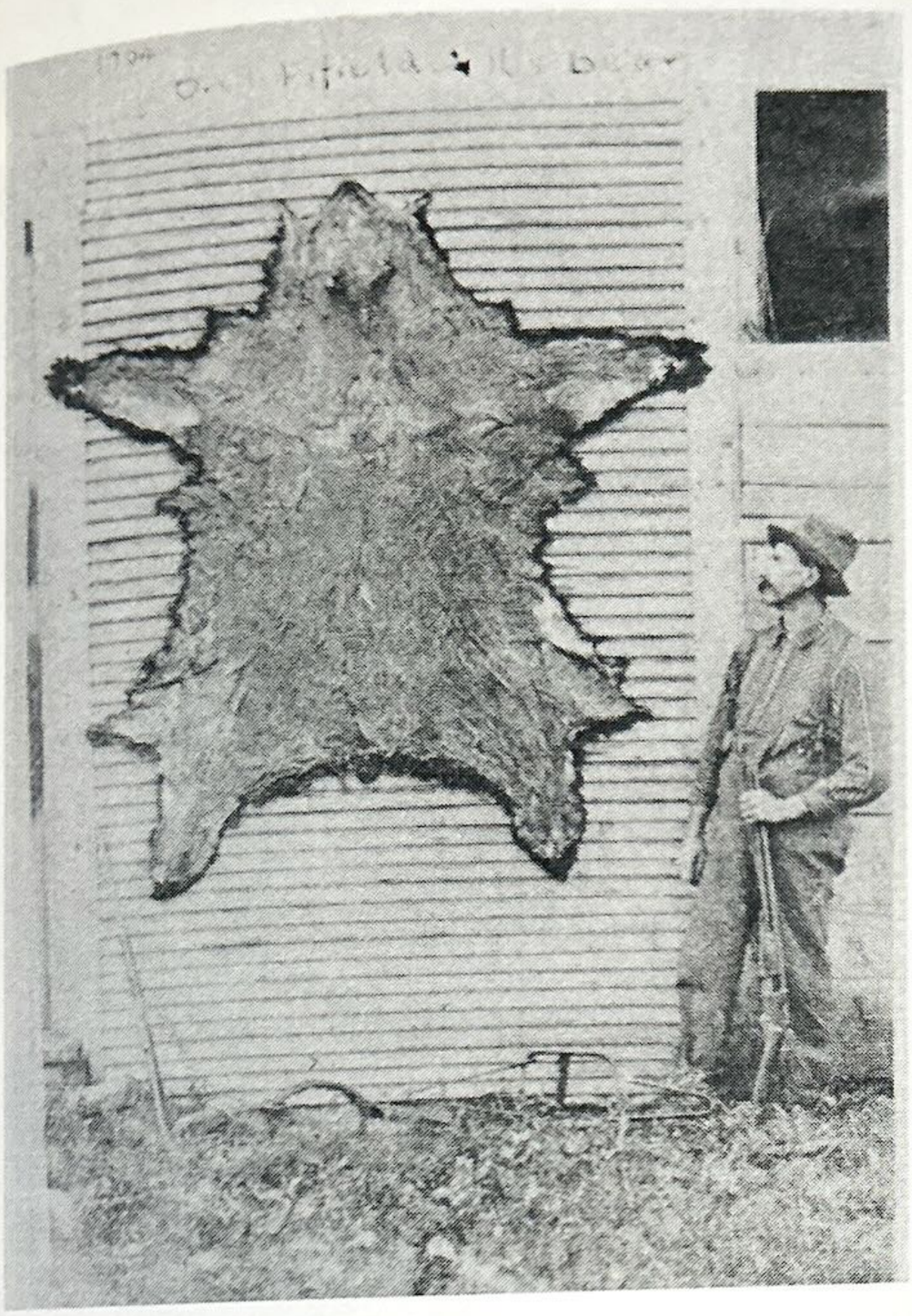
Going to Town

Holding the reins in front of the Green Mountain House



Quilting Bee on Feerick / Bonin lawn

To the rescue **Durkee and Claud Hutt with bear.**



Orville Fifield's bear.

GLEN TOZIER PICTURE

Entitled Trophies of a Morning's Sport in the Green Mountains, this picture appeared in the October 1906 issue of the *Vermonter* with the following statement:

"These boys, Glen Tozier of Warsaw, N.Y., and Harold Green of Pittsfield, Vt., started hunting at four o'clock in the morning, October 22, (the first day of the open season) and before nine o'clock a.m. they had secured both bear and deer seen in the picture. Both animals were in fine condition — large and fat, and were shot in the western part of Pittsfield, Vt., near the former homes of the two hunters."

Mrs. Clara Tozier, the widow of Glen Tozier, is a 1976 resident in town.

The fact of Pittsfield boys having bagged such fine specimens is sufficient reason for including this picture in our book, but the next paragraph from the same *Vermonter* gives even more reason for such inclusion:

"Deer, bear and small game are very numerous in Vermont today, but it is rarely our privilege to present as good a photograph of the hunt as this one by Miss May V. Parmenter of Pittsfield, Vt."

The greatest reason for such inclusion is the finding of the original glass plate negative that she used for this picture, one of several recovered by Richard Fifield from the rubbish heap when he purchased his present home where she formerly lived.

Not generally known, or perhaps forgotten, at least during her later years, was her ability as a very able photographer. She had an eye for natural beauty and the ability to arrange her subjects in the most favorable light.

May Parmenter was born April 23, 1873, and died April 14, 1950. She was a teacher for several years; for many years the Town Clerk in this town, where her fine penmanship will be seen for many years to come, by those studying our Town Records. To insure that she receives a small portion of the credit she deserves, and that her name will be remembered, at least as long as this book is in existence we include the following photograph, one of the same "find", showing her mother, in 1906, sitting in a room in her home. When we realize that with no electricity for lighting and only limited equipment to make this timed-exposure shot we can better appreciate her real talent.

SUSAN COLTON PARMENTER

Sugaring in the olden days.

Richard and Robert Ellis - Llewellyn and Harvey Hunt with their young steers.

Pittsfield Ball Team of 1912. Rear - Springer from Northfield, Clayton Mills, Harold Poro. Clayton Fifield, Norman Sylvester (pitcher from Northfield) Front - John Trask, Ralph Maynard Glen Tozier, Verne Vose.

Nelson Amaron and early car in town in 1910.

Charles Vose with his invention, the Snow Cycle.

The Birthday Club.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS BURIED IN PITTSFIELD

Daniel Ballard born November 6, 1754 at Willington, Connecticut died November 14, 1835. He married, second, Ruth Gains, widow of John, and lived at the Gains house located on the present site of Deer Brook Lodge. The bridge out front was referred to as Ballard Bridge. This entry appears in an old account book of the Rutland-Stockbridge Turnpike Company 1828-1838: "to board hands, keeping horse and timber for bridge $1.50-two days work on the bridge by Ballard's $2.00." DAR Patriot Index.

Benjamin Blossom born November 24, 1746 at Hingham, Massachusetts and died February 12, 1831. DAR Patriot Index.

Capt. Daniel Bowe lies in the Bowe lot in the cemetery in an unmarked grave. Connecticut Rolls.

Sgt. Penuel Child born May 7, 1757 at Woodstock, Connecticut and died August 22, 1843. In 1781 he was in charge of public teams that carried the French officers' baggage to Yorktown and was present at Cornwallis's surrender. DAR Patriot Index.

Joseph Durkee born c. 1733 in Windham, Connecticut and died July 29, 1812. Lexington Alarm. DAR Patriot Index.

Nathan Eddy born September 8, 1733 at Plymouth, Massachusetts and died February 28, 1804. Grave is unmarked. DAR Patriot Index.

Capt. Luther Fairbanks born July 15, 1755 at Lancaster, Massachusetts and died December 8, 1836. In the fall of 1775 he marched to Canada under Benedict Arnold and was taken prisoner at the storming of Quebec. After his release he was at the capture of Burgoyne and was later appointed a wagon conductor general of a brigade. DAR Patriot Index.

Capt. John Fuller born June 18, 1756 at Middleborough, Massachusetts and died February 4, 1839. He was a descendant of Edward Fuller who came over on the Mayflower. During the Revolution he spent the terrible winter of 1777 at Valley Forge. Having served in the War of 1812, he attained the rank of Major (Rifle). An amusing story circulated around Pittsfield in recent years that he was a British soldier, a most disturbing thought to a man who listed his occupation as "soldier". It seems someone had seen a British uniform and musket that had been passed down to Oney Fuller and had assumed that he had been a Redcoat. Pension Papers.

Stephen Holt born 1748 and died December 31, 1831. He fought at the Battle of Bennington and years later served in the War of 1812. "Governor Holt", as he was familiarly known, had three sons who became captains in Pittsfield's militia. Child's Rutland County Gazeteer 1882.

Thomas Parmenter born March 30, 1757 at Sudbury, Massachusetts and died October 23, 1842. DAR Patriot Index.

Daniel Rockwell Jr. born September 4, 1746 and died December 20, 1831. DAR Patriot Index.

Elijah Segar born March 1748 and died February 11, 1851. Pension Rolls.

Sgt. Zebedee Sprout born March 1, 1742 and died November 19, 1810. He was a surveyor by trade and also built and operated a tavern, now Sno-bird Lodge. Before 1822 this area south of Gardner Baker's was a part of Stockbridge so many of the deeds were recorded there. In Sprout's will recorded at Woodstock, he expresses his desire that "in a solemn manner, my remains may be interred on my land and in a suitable place near the road and that no preaching, oration, exhortation or singing be admitted at my funeral." Possibly his wishes were carried out, but Marvel Swan of Rutland told the authors the location of Sprout's stone in Pittsfield's cemetery which was rapidly deteriorating at the time she copied it. Nothing remains today, but a small chunk of marble protruding from the earth, to mark the passing of this patriot. DAR Patriot Index.

Other early settlers buried in Pittsfield whose ages suggest they could have been soldiers of the Revolution.

Zebediah Densmore
David Durkee
Joseph Lamb
Daniel Shepherdson - location of grave unknown
Crockett's list includes Josiah Babcock, but no evidence can be found to substantiate this claim.

PITTSFIELD SOLDIERS IN THE WAR OF 1812

No complete roster of the men who served in the War of 1812 from Pittsfield exists, but William R. Blossom stated, according to a previous history, that he and about a dozen men marched to Plattsburgh arriving too late for the battle. The authors compiled this list from the Vermont Roster of the War of 1812.

Phineas Austin
Joseph Baker
William R. Blossom
Bartlett Clark
John Davis — fifer
Nathan Durkee — drummer — died February 17, 1814
Col. Orrin Durkee
James Goodrich
Stephen Holt
David Jones
George W. Martin
Martin Parmenter
Walter Parmenter
Ezra Warren
William White

In 1882, Jemima Densmore Warren of Pittsfield, widow of Ezra Warren, filed for a War of 1812 pension. William R. Blossom, aged ninety-three, himself a volunteer, gave the following testimony in her behalf relating events surrounding the march to Burlington in anticipation of the battle of Plattsburgh. The company consisted of men from Stockbridge as well as Pittsfield.

"...that we gathered promiscuously on a Sunday-morning, and started, and went as far as Middlebury that day; that we stayed at Middlebury the first night; that the next morning we all got together, and were mustered into, and organized into a Company; that we chose Elias Keyes for Captain, Major Richardson for Lieutenant, Warren Durkee for Ensign, Justin Morgan for Orderly Serjeant, and myself for another serjeant; that Serjeant Morgan made a Roll of the Company, and called it off, and we all answered to the call; that fifty or over of us answered as our names were called from the Roll; that said Roll is not now to be found hereabouts, so far as I know; that so far as I know I am the only living member of said Company; that from said Middlebury we marched on in a more compact body; that we arrived at Burlington on the second night; that we there learned that the battle had been fought and victory won; that we were assigned to the College Buildings for quarters, and drew rations, as other soldiers; that Capt. Keyes directed us to remain where we were, while he would go over the Lake, to see if we were wanted farther; that we remained there several days, till we found that we were not needed farther; that we then were mustered out or mustered ourselves out, and started for home; that many of us, and perhaps most of us arrived home on a Sunday;"

MILITIA

The Vermont State Legislature passed a law in 1779 requiring all able bodied men to become members of the Vermont militia and to provide their own arms. Ministers, judges, doctors, schoolmasters, one miller per grist mill, tanners and disabled men were exempt from duty. However, the disabled had to produce a certificate signed by two physicians stating their infirmity. Most often the educated, well to do, and those with political connections never were made to serve. Thus, only about half of the male population of a town ever participated.

In early years training day was the first Tuesday in May and October, but through 1818-1832 it was held in June and September. In 1832 the September training was abolished completely.

Immensely popular with children and other onlookers, training day was a great social event in every town. A week prior to the muster, a corporal went around warning the men to appear on the appointed day at nine o'clock. After lining up on the village common, the roll call was taken. When a man's name was called a corporal would march up and escort him to the captain for inspection. During the day the captain often halted the exercises long enough for another draught of whiskey or blackstrap, a strong concoction of molasses and rum, or a necessary trip to the horsesheds.

By law each member had to be armed with a musket, a bayonet, an iron ramrod, an extra flint, a small brush for cleaning the pan, a priming wire, a cartridge box, a powder horn and a few spare bullets. If a man showed up without these he was subject to a fine, but this was not strictly enforced.

The uniform was merely "citizens's dress" which usually included a swallowtail coat and a tall hat. To distinguish the officers, a red sash was tied to their waists, epaulets worn on their shoulders, a sword hung by their side and a foot high plume was attached to the top of their hat.

After the War of 1812 the militia was deemed most necessary, but during the period from 1820-1840 it became a laughingstock, causing embarrassment to those who served. Because the Congress eventually had an army of its own and the system was so unjust the Legislature of Vermont voted on October 30, 1844 to repeal every act related to the militia.

We have no record of activities of the Militia in Pittsfield, except a statement in Smith & Rann's *History of Rutland County* by William R. Blossom that he was corporal of a company of militia men when he was eighteen years of age; captain at twenty-five years; from another source, that three sons of Stephen Holt served in the militia as Captains

VOLUNTEERS FROM PITTSFIELD WHO SERVED IN THE CIVIL WAR

VOLUNTEERS FOR THREE YEARS

Herman D. Bates
Frederick C. Bennett
Truman O. Brown - died from wounds received at Fredericksburg
Martin B. Davis
Albert R. Freeman
James C. Freeman
Christopher C. George
Henry Miner
James D. Parmenter
Stephen H. Preston
Allen Rogers
John L. Shannon - missing in action after the battle of Cedar Creek
Melville C. Spaulding
Franklin B. Swan - missing in action after the battle of Cedar Creek

VOLUNTEERS FOR THREE YEARS UNDER THE CALL OF OCTOBER 17, 1863

Oliver P. Blaisdell
Morton H. Davis
Romain J. Eggleston
Stanislaus Flanders
Stephen Harrington
Edric C. Leonard
William H. Mitchell
Austin S. Parkhurst

Edric C. Leonard
Edward S. Lovell
William H. Mitchell
Austin S. Parkhurst

VOLUNTEERS FOR ONE YEAR

Charles H. Chambers
Charles L. Doty
Lucius T. Grout
James W. Parmenter
Lorenzo T. Parmenter
Alliston E. Shepard
John C. Thomas

VOLUNTEERS RE-ENLISTED

William H. Breed

VOLUNTEERS FOR NINE MONTHS

Lucian J. Archer
Lester L. Baird - died from wounds suffered at Gettysburg and is buried there
Oliver P. Blaisdell
Willard W. Blanchard - died of disease at a hospital near Washington
John M. Brown
Charles L. Doty
Amos Ellis
Amos M. Hall
Albert Noyes
Guilford Parmenter
Darius Ranney
Robert C. West
Albert H. Whitney

WORLD WAR I

Mabelle Annis
Edmund Forsha
Elmer Gomo
Frank Gomo
William Grandy
Thomas Holland
Jacob Kantor
Joseph Perron
Alstine Rorison
Walter Severance
Clarence Weinle
Frank Lamb

WORLD WAR II

Joseph Boylan
Bryce Davis
Earl Davis
Theodore Davis
Richard Ellis
Nathan Fellows Jr.
Fletcher Fifield
Kimball Fifield
Richard Fifield
William Grandy
Donald Kitchin
Charles Knapp
Keith Knapp
Frank Lewis
Brewster Martin
Hollister Martin
William Martin
Donald Maynard
Randall Maynard
Clifton Merrill
Stanley Mills
Archie Pecor
Richard Rollins
Lawrence Taylor
Richard Taylor
Lawrence Wood
William Young

KOREAN WAR

Vernon Bonin
Melvin Colton
John Fifield
Donald Grandy
Donald Merrill
John Power
James Severance
Walter Severance
Arthur Sulham
Franklin Sulham

VIETNAM WAR

The following is the list, given us by the Adjutant General's Office of those serving in the Vietnam War:

Durman Andrews
Nioka Andrews
Roger Clark
Raymond Cook
Thomas Fellows
Gerald Fifield
James Fifield
William Fisk
Joseph Fuster
Larry Lanpher
Peter Martin
Frank Needham
William Rounds
Bruce Severance
Carl Taylor
James Taylor

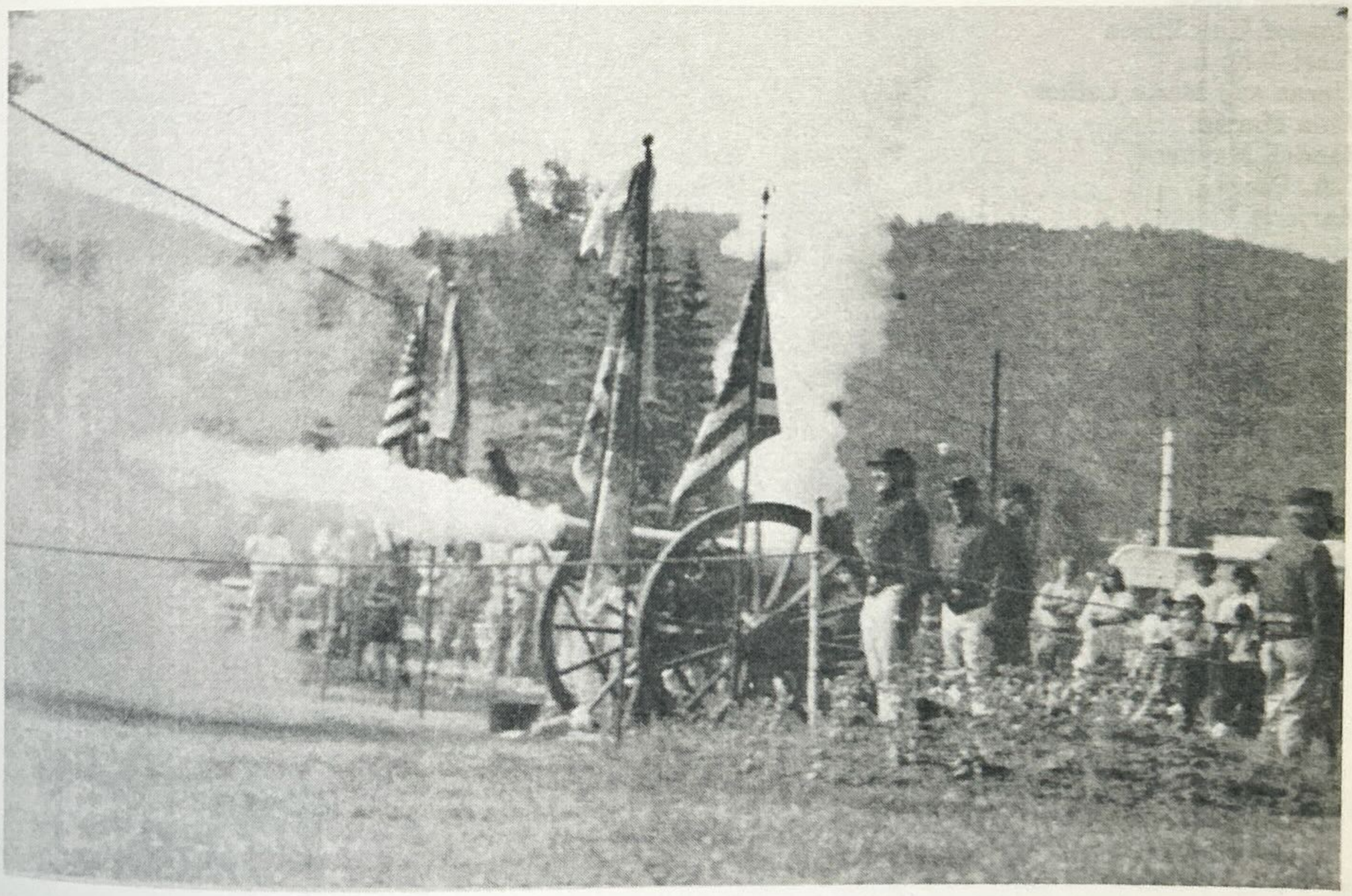
REPRESENTATIVES TO THE VERMONT LEGISLATURE

Erastus Holt	1818-1823
Warner Durkee	1823-1825
Erastus Holt	1825-1827
Warner Durkee	1827
Erastus Holt	1828
Wm. R. Blossom	1829-1832
Ira Parsons	1832-1834
Levi Rix	1834-1835
Ebenezer Rockwell	1836-1837
Levi Rix	1837-1842
Daniel Bowe	1842-1844
F.T. Matthews	1844
Samuel Kellogg	1845
Lyman Gibbs	1846-1847
Calvin Joslin	1848
Orton Hatch	1849
Nahum Green	1850
None	1852
Wm. Blossom	1854
Ira Beard	1855-1856
Calvin Joslin	1857-1858
Marcus Holt	1859-1860
Loren Beard	1861-1862
Lyman Gibbs	1863-1864
R.F. Wing	1865-1866
H.O. Gibbs	1867-1868
C.W. Brigham	1869-1870
Joel Ranney	1871-1872
Jonathan Ranney	1873-1874
Josiah Babcock	1875-1876
Daniel W. Ranney	1877-1878
Loren Houghton	1879-1880
Edward Atwood	1881-1882
J.H. Ranney	1883-1884
George McCollum	1885-1886
H.O. Hatch	1887-1888
A.J. Ellis	1889-1890
G.A. Chedel	1891-1892
F.L. Brigham	1893-1894
Moses Ellis	1895-1896
G.D. Parmenter	1897-1898
Frank Durkee	1899-1900
F.H. Morrill	1901-1902
W.K. Ellis	1903-1904
Ira Holt	1905-1906
L.E. Taylor	1907-1908
Clarence Mills	1909-1910
Q.J. Ellis	1911-1914
H.G. Ranney	1915-1916
C.O. Allen	1917-1918
L.E. Lamb	1919-1920
C.H. Mills	1921-1922
A.J. Ranney	1923-1924
E.A. Lamb	1925-1926
F.H. Bishop	1927-1928
J.W. Brown	1929-1930
Tom Desmond	1931-1932
W.O. Parmenter	1933-1934
Eugene Martin	1935-1936
C.H. Fifield	1937-1938
Earl N. Davis	1939-1940
Richard Ellis	1941-1942
Mabel Ranney	1943-1946
Clifford Knapp	1947-1950
Erwin Lamb	1951-1952
Theodore Griffin	1953-1954
N. Warren Fellows	1955-1956
Paul Berglund	1957-1958
N. Warren Fellows	1959-1960
Zilpah Ranney	1961-1965

Since 1966, Vermont has been divided into legislative districts with Pittsfield in District 65. Other towns in District 65 are Granville, Hancock, Rochester and Stockbridge. In 1974 Goshen was added to the district.

Stanley P. Miner of Stockbridge was elected in 1966; Joseph T. Steventon of Rochester elected in 1969, and is the present Representative.

The interior of the Roger Clark Memorial Library.



Firing the cannon at the Liberty Pole Dedication , 1975.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are deeply indebted to the following persons:

To Charles Avery and his brother-in-law, E.R. Gates, for excellent photographs and stereopticon views of the period from 1880 to 1900;

To Mrs. Melvin Johnson, without whose careful labeling of the Avery and Gates pictures our ideas of Pittsfield during that period would be very vague. Her collection of pictures has been the key to identifying many houses, no longer in existence, as well as those which have been changed by remodeling;

To May V. Parmenter, former Town Clerk, whose many local "shots" during the early 1900's, and whose identification has helped us to visualize the town in the early part of this century;

To Earl and Mary Davis who have copied and painstakingly catalogued the nearly 400 pictures we have been able to collect, including all of those shown in this book;

To Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Fairbrother, first for their careful, systematic arrangement of Town Records, and second, for their willing and gracious assistance and cooperation, day after day, permitting us - almost - to gain "squatter's rights" to two chairs and a table;

To Mrs. Madeline Fleming from whose *History of Sherburne* we have made many notes;

To Veda Martin for her assistance in researching the iron mining activities, and the final disposition of their holdings;

To Richard Ellis for his gift of pictures, diaries and letters of the Civil War Era;

And finally, to all those who have loaned us old pictures or given us information about earlier days:

Ramona Blackmer
Charles and Lena Colton
Robert and Virginia Colton
Nancy Fish Darling
Kate Davis
Olive Feerick
Clayton Fifield
Richard and Joyce Fifield
Mrs. Almo Franzoni
Carmine Guica
Eleanor Hutchinson
Pearl Johnson
Kieran and Marie Laffan
Veda Martin
Randall Maynard
C.A. Pacca
Marjorie Pierce
Alstine Rorison
Gail Sulham
Cleone Townsend
Eleanor Vose
Bessie Wilson

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Records of Proprietor's Meetings and Town Meetings
Land Records of the Town of Pittsfield
Grand Lists of the Town of Pittsfield
(All of the above are located in the Pittsfield, Vermont Town Clerk's Office).
Vermont State Papers in the Rutland Library
First Census of the United States from Heads of Families - Vermont
Second Census of the United States
Gazetteer of the State of Vermont by Zadock Thompson
Walton's Vermont Registers and Farmers' Almanacs
Beer's Atlas of Rutland County 1869
Scott's Map of Rutland County 1853 from Vermont Historical Society
Vermont Historical Gazetteer by Abby Hemenway
Rutland County Gazetteer by Hamilton Child
History of Rutland County by Smith and Rann
In Informal History of the Town of Sherburne, Vermont by Madeline C. Fleming
Windsor County Gazetteer by Hamilton Child
W.W. Williams History of Rochester, Vermont
Issues of Herald and News published in Randolph, Vermont
Account of Charles Goodrich from the Berkshire Athenaeum in Massachusetts
Civil War Roster of Vermont
War of 1812 Roster of Vermont
David Daley's Account Books from the Vermont Historical Society
D.A.R. Records
Pension Papers
Diaries of Susan (Colton) Parmenter, May Parmenter and Maud (Parmenter) Stoddard
Bert Houghton's 1934 Speech
Crockett's History of Vermont

Notes

This space has been provided for any notes you might wish to add.

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